

FROM: Tom McAlvanah

DATE: 4/24/2020

SUBJECT: OPWDD Call

Data: sadly but expectedly, the number of positive cases and deaths continue to rise. As of last night, 4/23/20:

Positive cases — 1,926

Deaths — 276

90% of all cases were concentrated in the downstate area including, NYC; Nassau and Suffolk; Rockland and Orange; Westchester and Putnam.

85% of the deaths are individuals over the age of 50.

63% of the deaths are male; 37% are female.

The primary co-morbidities associated with the profiles of the deceased include Hypertension; Diabetes, Heart Disease, among them. The data for this population mirror closely to that of the general population. As you can imagine, lots of questions and discussions followed.

Hardship Pay: Roger asked John Kemmer to comment as he requested time on the agenda. John brought forth the financial hardship many providers were incurring during the crisis and the struggle to make sure coverage in our residences was maintained. With the DSP workforce on the frontlines as Essential Workers, we know that funding for the extra pay they are being given is not in the State's current funding plan. John asked if Roger had any updates he could share as the Governor went to Washington to the other day to speak with the President and seek extra funding for states and local governments.

Secondly, there is a bill being proposed in the New York City Council that would mandate 'hazard pay' for all essential workers. The bill does not provide any funding mechanism for non-profit providers who are sustained through State and City rates and contracts. Without such a mechanism, there is no ability for our providers to be reimbursed for such a massive expense. Roger acknowledged both the Governor's efforts, on which he could not comment, and the NYC Council bill. He used the phrase "duly noted."

A question from another parent advocate, asked Roger if the State Operations staff were getting hazard pay, Roger commented that the staff were governed by a new contract effective 4/1/20. Raises were provided in the contract, but the Governor has suspended raises for the State's workforce for at least 90 days. There was no mention of hazard pay. The parent advocate, Barb DeLong from DDAWNY, promised not to let up on the issue.

Isolation Protocols: Abiba asked if there were issues or confusion about the protocols. Arnold Ackerly spoke to the issue for individuals at home and the difficulties to isolate. Other parents also responded. Testing: the continued conversation on testing took up the remainder of time. Calls from all spoke to the need, the ongoing risks of community spread without a plan to address hotspots for tracing and testing, and the vulnerability of many in congregate settings. The lack of supplies were again recognized as the primary culprit. Plans and roll out are being contemplated.