

FROM: Thomas McAlvanah
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Good afternoon everyone,

OPWDD has now moved to two COVID-19 Update meetings per week, Monday and Thursdays.

The first agenda item today was Kevin Valenchis' update on the Enhanced IRA rates. Kevin reported that there was none.

Questions and comments from a number of the provider reps followed quickly. They included each week's delay is another week without cash; the Attestation: they're working on it; the errors in the number and lack of identification of individuals in IRAs who attend other organizations' Day Hab are being seen across many providers, among others.

Later, Kate Marlay commented that the Fed's response is a moving target that then requires a change in OPW's responses back to them. She shared frustration that the time lines are already past, and she is awaiting those approvals.

One other comment dealt with the need for providers to send corrections of technical errors, such as the number of folks that qualify for an Enhanced Rate in their IRAs. Corrections to the Mental Hygiene Rate Setting Unit are recommended. Providers should include the identity and TABS# of the people who should be part of the Enhanced IRA calculation.

Discussion continued on the need to PPEs for individuals and staff supported by the Fiscal Intermediaries. OPWDD remains in contact with the FIs for shortages.

COVID 19 Data Update:

As of 4/29/20, there are 2,139 people who are COVID-19 positive or presumed positive. Sadly, 319 people receiving OPWDD services have passed away resulting from the virus outbreak.

The rest of the discussion covered topic areas including the continued need for testing, the struggle for PPEs and what our system will look like as we contemplate reopening.

Wish I could share more, as all of us are nervous about the immediate future for our providers.

It looks like a call with Donna Cater and Kevin Valenchis will take place early next week. We'll stay on it and report back.