

DATE: April 6, 2020

Good evening All,

Here is tonight's update, and it is not much.

The Appendix K agreement with CMS is still not finalized. In Roger's words, they are exchanging language with them, but he does point out that agreement seems to be a 'moving target,' even if another state has been approved with the same concepts and language, there remains reframing the ask and results. So we wait until Wednesday now. The PAs on the phone did point out the urgency of the matter and the uncertainty that the provider community is feeling. "Understood."

Officials from DOH and their legal team were present on the phone to speak to the hoped-for revised Visitation Guidance for individuals who are hospitalized and who need a support person present. Paul Francis also spoke to the issue and tried to assure the families and everyone on the call that he saw progress and resolution in the form of policy modifications coming in the next day or so.

Emergency Housing was also briefly discussed by Abiba. OPW has received one proposal on Long Island that has recently opened. There is another in Broome County that is scheduled to open as well. Abiba is also talking to a New York City Provider about another.

The request about data, those testing positive, those who dying from the virus, etc., was raised once again by a family member. While this request came from both NYDA and the families, OPW is still talking with DOH, and the Executive Chamber it is presumed, as to how they will respond. Leaving it there, but not forgetting...

The enhanced IRA rate package is being discussed at DOH and waiting for resolution. Again, providers and parents pressed the issue of providers extending their resources, providing payment incentives to staff and expending an enormous amount of monies in a whatever-it-takes effort to support people in our programs and services. It was met with the usual quiet acceptance and understanding.

What you should know is that the Provider Associations along with our CCO partners have been raising our voices as one throughout. We stand unified as a community as New York State has understandably struggled through this crisis. It's not that people aren't trying up there in Albany, but we are still not where we need to be as a service system when there is no recognition of the level of health care, support for the safety of people and the danger that the staff put themselves in everyday.

Tomorrow, there will be a joint letter from all of the Associations to our collective memberships that will illustrate what we have been trying to articulate to you in our correspondence to you. This letter will cover the efforts we have been making in areas such as the Federal Waiver and their effects upon services; the PPE shortages; Executive Orders; Fingerprinting; Reporting requirements, often burdensome and duplicative; the future of Day Hab and other key services still unresolved.

We hope to share this with you tomorrow to let you know that we stand with you and remain your voices at these meetings.

Have a good evening,

Tom