
From: Tom McAlvanah <tom@iacny.org>

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020

Subject: OPWDD COVID-19 Update

Good afternoon everyone.

Here is the latest.

Presumptive Eligibility: questions had been raised about the individuals who are graduating/transitioning from School age programs and for many, their lack of eligibility for OPWDD services. The inability to secure evaluations and other foundational documents may leave many without a day opportunity in July. Abiba has begun to review the data and will report back to the stakeholders on the number of graduates and their eligibility status at the next meeting.

Training for Individuals supported: there was a question about the Plain Language Document about COVID-19 that can be found on OPWDD's website. Providers and others were encouraged to use the document as a resource for basic education on COVID-19, from social distancing to wearing a face mask.

Re-Opening of OPWDD services and supports: OPWDD was asked to respond to inquiries as the rest of NYS begins to be released from the New York Pause mandate. OPW stressed that that they don't have their re-opening time line. All affected programs will follow the regional and industry listing that was issued by the Governor. Discussion over the how and when continued, but there was no more in depth proposal suggested. Families and self-advocates strongly suggested clear and timely communication from OPW when plans for reopening commence. When the issue of testing was raised, they again pointed to DOH as the lead agency; there is no plan for the OPW sector as a whole. Leslie Fuld pointed to the DOH website for testing guidelines and locations.

Data updates: as of 5/13/20, 2,506 individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, 2,057 in certified congregate care settings. Sadly, there have been 380 have passed away from the virus. The rest of the data remains consistent with past observations: 90% of the cases were in the NYC Metropolitan Region; 90% of the cases were people from congregate care settings; 83% were over the age of 50; 62% were male, with 38% female; over 80% of the cases had co-morbidities in the areas identified by the CDC as the top indicators of fatalities for COVID-19.

Next meeting on Thursday.