

From: Tom McAlvanah
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020
Subject: OPWDD COVID-19 Update

Hi All,

Here is today's news from the OPWDD Stakeholder Meeting.

Fiscal Update: Kevin referenced the Public Notice, released yesterday 5/27/20, in the State Register of impending requests to amend the Medicaid State Plan and HCBS Waiver regarding for certain rate setting provisions, effective 10/1/20. He referenced that the Provider Associations would be having a meeting with OPW leadership tomorrow. At that point, one parent expressed her observations about this action using words such as an "abandonment" of the providers, "unfathomable" and "dishonorable" referring to this action. The discussion continued with parents and providers expressing their frustration. Kevin then confirmed that while the Attestation document was sent out, (and they have 78 signed Attestations already) the rate information including the unit caps for each of the three services is still not posted on OPA. When the information is posted, providers will have 3 days to sign the Attestation and send it in if they want to be part of the Retainer program. After the meeting between OPW staff and the PAs tomorrow, I will provide an update.

Self-Direction: the Webinar, via MC-COP, will take place tomorrow at 10:30 for a review of COVID-19 Guidance on Retainer payments for Self-hired Com Hab staff and other service delivery issues.

Visitation: OPW is creating guidance on Return to Home for families who have kept their loved ones out of the residence during the pandemic. Coming soon... They are also developing a Pilot Visitation Program that will create practices around family visits to certified residences. Among the guidelines would be a visit that would take place outside in the nice weather, a visit to an individual with a single bedroom or other appropriate social distanced visit location. The policy guidance is being drafted as we speak, or write or.... Questions about testing, still an unclear direction; the inclusion of the State-Ops in the visitation policy, yes; consent being obtained by individuals living there, yes.

Data:

As of 5/27, there are 2,713 positive COVID-19 cases; of those, 2,206 reside in certified residences.

There have been 405 people in our programs who have passed away with a positive COVID diagnosis. The rest of the demographics remain consistent by region, age, gender and comorbidity factors.