

FROM: Tom McAlvanah
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Here are today's updates:

1. Data --- As of 6/24/20, there have been 3,077 positive cases for individuals in certified settings, an increase of 17 from the previous week; of those positive cases, 2,496 are individuals in certified setting, an increase of 32 from the previous week; there were 437 fatalities due to the coronavirus, an increase of 5 over the previous week. The number of cases and fatalities have continued to trend downward. Other demographic trends have remained consistent over the weeks. Lastly, there are 3,547 staff who have tested positive, an increase of 111 over the previous week. There will be more analysis on the numbers next week.
2. Visitation --- There was a great deal of discussion over the visitation process and guidance. Leslie Fuld reported there were Attestations submitted by 151 agencies covering 4,284 certified sites who began allowing visitations. That represents 63% of the nearly 6,800 certified sites. Discussion continued over the proper balance between safety and access.
3. Self-Direction Update --- Abiba Kindo addressed recent questions from families and individuals who self-direct their services. The first question related to Retainer Day payments. Abiba stated that they conducted a Webinar and issued Guidance for the Self-Direction liaisons. The second issue clarified that the Day Services Retainer payments does not conflict with the PRAs. The third question spoke to modification of existing FI budgets. Abba clarified that while there is some flexibility in service changes, there is no room at this times to change the budgets without amendment approvals from OPWDD.
4. Stakeholder Engagement--- In response to calls from some stakeholders, OPWDD has agreed to roll out some collaborative discussion groups over the future of the service delivery system. Allison McCarthy will be spearheading the project which she hopes to initiate over the next several weeks. They may look to conduct surveys of providers, individuals and families about how to safely re-open Day services.
5. Site-Based Respite --- Abiba also spoke to calls over how site-based respite services can begin again. Unsurprisingly, there would need to be a comprehensive review for each site including the implementation of safety protocols. Look for some guidance documents in the coming weeks.