

FROM: Tom McAlvanah
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Some updates from OPW on the following:

They began with an acknowledgment that they have still not addressed the guidelines for family visitations, remarkably. They claim to have some principles drafted that will be released.....soon.

Data: as of 6/3/20, there have been 2,841 positive cases of the Coronavirus; 2,332 were individuals living in Certified Residences; sadly, the number of fatalities is now 423. Other trends remain steady; the overwhelming majority of positive cases, 90%, still come from the NYC Metropolitan downstate area; 83% were over the age of 50; 61 % were male, with 39% female, (mirroring the current gender profile of people served by OPWDD agencies). Again, the co-morbidities also remain consistent with past data as conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, Renal disease, Coronary Artery disease, Cancer, etc. are present in over 80% of the individuals who have passed.

Other data points presented were the number of staff who were confirmed COVID-19 positive, 3,218; of those, 2,755 staff worked in congregate care facilities.

While the numbers are staggering taken as a whole, what seems evident is the dramatic drop in cases and fatalities from the earliest period, mirrors the trends we witness in the Governor's daily briefing for the rest of the NYS population as a whole. It is some good news in the orbit of some of our most difficult periods in our history.

Day Hab Reopening: there was some discussion that followed a rather brief and unclear mention that OPWDD were looking at many factors as they consider how, where and under what conditions day programs will be allowed to open. After much back and forth that a lot to be desired, I am seeing a planned Provider Association meeting focused on the day services reopening scheduled for next Tuesday, June 9th. Will report back.

Community Hab: the Waiver amendment that indicated that there will be a new process to evaluate authorization for Community was raised. They reiterated that OPW was looking for consistency and fairness in the process with more guidance coming out later this year.

Fiscal Update: Kevin Valenchis spoke to two issues. The first was the 2% increases slated for 1/1/20 and 4/1/20. He stated that there was progress. I'm not sure that progress can be defined as anything other than those increases being included in our rates on the next billing cycle.

And then there is the release through OPA of the Service and Retainer Units that have been languishing somewhere. This is a DOH issuance of course, but he was hopeful that they may be released as early as tomorrow; my guess would be Monday, but there is no reason to put a time on it.