

Waiver Amendments and Rate Setting Action:

Kate Marlay reported that OPWDD is nearing approval from CMS for the [10/1](#) vacancy and occupancy adjustments. What is clear, it will become effective on 10/1. What remains unclear, the timing of the vacancy review period. The providers shared the negative impact on families and the reluctance for providers to serve individuals with complex physical and behavioral overlays will be the result as negotiations over when individuals can and should go home will result.

Units of service for Day Hab, for Full and Half Days, will expire [on 10/14](#). OPW didn't show any indication that they would be willing to extend past the 10/14 date. Further discussion and push back by the provider community with OPW will follow.

The other Appendix K flexibilities such as remote Service delivery, Day Hab services in residential settings and others are part of this Waiver approval and will continue until March 2021.

Waiver Amendment approval for ICF Day Services, payment waivers similar to IRAs, also nearing approval, effective [7/22 to 10/14](#). This also includes the Full and Half Day service units billing changes currently in effect in the IRAs.

Stakeholder Engagement:

OPW conducted 5 Regional Forums to understand the state of service delivery of Day services during the pandemic. In addition to understanding what families and advocates are experiencing now, OPW is seeking input on what has worked, what didn't and what should be continued after the pandemic, such as remote service delivery through Zoom. OPW is also speaking with the Provider Associations and receiving their input. IAC has submitted their white paper, *Guidance, Considerations and Recommendations for the Safe Return to Engaging Adult Day Services* to OPWDD. Our two Adult Day Services Co-Chairs, Fredda Rosen, Wini Schiff and I will be meeting with OPW staff on Friday to review the paper.

CRO Process and Vacancy Approval:

While Abiba reviewed the current process, she suggested direct contact with her and Jaci Best should providers experience undue delays. We did not get too much further on the slowness of response from DDROs, however, we discussed that consistency and speed was missing. We then requested data about the number of people on the CRO list and the number of vacancies in the system. Current people on Emergency/Urgent needs approximates 1200 statewide. They will get back to us on the status of vacancies statewide.

Budget Update:

This topic opened with Christine Carey speaking to financial cuts to the State Ops. Including a hiring freeze on all non-direct support positions; contract spending on hold unless health and safety related; capital spending on hold unless health and safety related. We had no comment there.

Time frames for [10/1](#) cuts: there are none at this time. Providers strongly requested guidance in order to plan budget and costs affected. Out of state residential schools will not be subject to 20% withhold. When asked why, the response was, 'they will lose their placement and be returned.'

Issues raised by providers: If OMH and other O agencies have had the 20% withhold removed for their residential properties, we asked OPW to inquire as to why our OPWDD Residential providers cannot be included; they will explore this further.

We also inquired about providers reporting that PPA costs are not reimbursed from date of operation prompting Joanne Howard to ask for examples. She reported that there has been no change in the processing of pre-operational costs. We will explore further.

633.12 Discharge and Due Process:

Willow Baer discussed the recent issuance of a revised 633.12 and suggested the update was not in response to a specific event or condition. She reported that OPW has provided updates to this regulation previously. The only substantial inclusion is the reference to families who have taken their loved homes during the pandemic and whose placement remains intact.