

## **Notes from OPWDD Stakeholder Meeting – 9/24/2020**

### **Data**

The following data points were presented by Tamika Black.

As of September 16, 2020, there have been 3,512 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 2,825 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 466 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 4,324 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

As of September 23, 2020, there have been 3,534 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 2,839 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 466 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 4,352 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

The demographic trends remain consistent across geography, for example downstate has 90%, gender and comorbidities as well.

### **Second Wave Planning for COVID-19**

OPWDD just informed the group that OPW is continuing to review Guidance Documents, communications and technology changes necessary should there be a resurgence of the virus.

### **Waiver Update**

While I had shared the bulk of the updates in yesterday's summary. A couple of points to share are:

- OPW believes that they will receive approval from CMS prior to October 1.
- The Occupancy adjustment will be in effect on October 1, with an occupancy factor of 0%. As the 7/1 rates have yet to be issued, they may issue the 7/1 rates for the first 3 months with the occupancy adjustment and the new rates without the occupancy adjustment for the remaining 9 months. More to come there.
- The Retainer Days factor will also start immediately as well.
- For Therapeutic leave, the 96 days per person per year paid at 50%, they are unclear when the clock for the 96 days begins. Similar to the Occupancy adjustment as the new number of Retainer days kicks in on 10/1, they are not sure if the 96 days for the 2020/2021 rate year will be pro-rated at 75% as rate years run 7/1 to 6/30 for all regions.
- The fate of the ICFs and reductions in the above factors is not certain.
- Kevin Valenchis commented that he expected that the 20% withhold will continue for the next quarter, October through December. He also added that the carve-out for Rental Subsidies will likely continue for the quarter, but there is no official word, and we will stay tuned.
- Pre Vocational Regional consolidation was clarified. The collapsing of 3 regions to 2 regions was completed and part of the anticipated Waiver approval. OPW stated that the effects on services should not be felt as providers will see minimal adjustment in fees.

While there were additional discussion from families and advocates about the effects of the cuts and withholds, OPW recognized the consequences, but had little to offer as solutions.