

**From:** Tom McAlvanah  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020  
**Subject:** OPWDD COVID-19 Update

**Data:** per the report from Tamika Black — there are now a total of 3,151 individuals with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis; 2,556 are in Certified settings. 440 individuals have passed away as of the week of 6/28/20. For staff who have been positively diagnosed, there were 3,679 positive cases. Once again, the demographic and epidemiological trends have remained consistent.

**Fiscal Update:** Kevin Valenichis suggested that the approval process for the two 2% increases were moving at DOB. I will not speculate in response. Kevin also referenced the new approval for Federal Provider Relief Fund for Medicaid and CHIP providers. The link is here: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/provider-relief-fund-medicaid-chip-factsheet.pdf>.

**Stakeholder Engagement Process:** Allison McCarthy reported on OPWDD's work in engaging stakeholders for the reopening and reimagining of Day Services. They have been in conversations with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, (DDPC), MC-COP and the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council to develop ways to engage stakeholders across the state. OPWDD is developing online survey instruments that will be distributed to individuals and families as well as providers and bring together focused discussion groups in each region representing each constituency. Among the items to assess are the readiness, methods of service delivery desired, transportation and the like. She indicated a time frame of over the next several weeks. That certainly brought about great deal of discussion about the sense of urgency, that many families stated, was missing.

**Appendix K:** there was little new shared by Kate Marlay as OPWDD is continuing to explore work-arounds for the Appendix K that is due to expire in less than two weeks. While the Retainer Days are slated for expiration from the recent CMS FAQ, the Com Hab R funding will continue under the Appendix K until September. The Self Direction Retainer Days are paid under a different model, so that program will not terminate along with the Day Hab, Com Hab and Pre Voc program. More needs to be explored by Kate there.