

From: Tom McAlvanah
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020
Subject: OPWDD COVID-19 Update

Data: as of July 1, 2020, there have been 3,115 confirmed COVID -19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 2,524 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 436 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 3,634 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive. The trends are continuing to bend in the right direction with no deaths reported during the week of 6/21; there were overall, 20 new cases of COVID-19 positive cases for individuals in certified settings that week statewide. The demographic data has also remained consistent over geography, gender, top ten co-morbidities and age.

Retainer Days and Appendix K: as many of you have read, OPWDD also saw the recent guidance from CMS issued long after the initial approvals of New York's and other states 1115 Retainer day payment waivers. As New York had applied and were seemingly approved for a 6 month period to utilize the retainer day payment mechanism, this came as more than a surprise to them as well. Kate Marlay spoke further, referencing the additional work that now needs to be done to preserve the structure that has been painstakingly designed, and only now beginning to be executed through Day program provider billing. At issue is the FAQ from CMS that I sent to you this morning. Beginning on page 23, CMS provided some 'guardrails' around retainer day payment financing and that program's renewal up to 3, 30 Day time periods. That would take us to the end of July for NY's retainer payment structure. We were originally approved with extenders through the 1115 Waiver up to early September. Kate suggests to stay tuned as she will be working on this new wrinkle, not so happily.

General discussion: after much back and forth on Retainer Days, questions and topics varied from: Visitation, with some patents still seeing limitations that were frustrating for some families; Self Direction retainers; DQI audits of Infection Control that are continuing. When asked about results, Leslie Fuld stated that she would look to present the data. When asked about the report that some providers were being greeted by DQI staff at their residential doorsteps upon reporting a positive COVID-19 case, she did reply that they had begun to visit such residences.