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TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK
FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities
RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel15)
DATE: 6/15/20

ADMH-DDD is committed to ensuring positive health and safety outcomes for all individuals served while also ensuring their desires and needs continue to be met to the best ability of the department and provider network serving them during times of crisis. Furthermore, ADMH-DDD remains committed to provide continuous support and guidance to ADMH-DDD’s provider network to ensure they are informed and have the best information available to make decisions during a time when there are so many unknowns.

Given the responsibility of the ADMH-DDD to ensure health and safety and, considering the rising number of positive cases in Alabama and the vulnerability of the population served through our waiver services, **ADMH-DDD will postpone the opening of facility-based day services through July 31, 2020.** The ADMH-DDD, along with the DDD Sub-Committee COVID-19 Taskforce, is meeting weekly to evaluate these unprecedented circumstances that impact our service delivery system.

Important information about Funding

The enhanced FMAP through the CARES Act ends June 30, 2020. ADMH-DDD used this additional funding to provide subsidy payments and enhanced residential rates beginning March 21, 2020. With this additional funding, it is necessary to make the following changes:

June 1 – 30: DDD will continue COVID-19 Subsidy payments for Day Services (Day Hab, pre-voc, Community Experience, and small group employment) as well as the 19% increase for Residential Habilitation

July 1 – 31: Programs will begin billing for services actually provided. COVID-19 Subsidy payments (Day Hab, pre-voc, Community Experience, and small group employment) will be provided at 60% of level funding based on March claims billing less the amount of actual service provided. The 19% increase for Residential Habilitation will continue.

August 1 and forward: DDD COVID-19 Subsidy payments and 19% will no longer be available and programs will submit claims billing for actual services provided.

COVID-19 Infectious Disease Emergency Plan Requirements:

The CDC and ADPH use the term “at higher risk” to describe persons who may experience greater illness if they acquire the COVID-19 virus, due to their age or underlying health conditions. ADMH-DDD’s obligation, and its requirement, to ensure the health and safety of individuals receiving services makes it essential to confirm the DDD waiver provider network has robust Infectious Disease Emergency Plans and, to have those plans monitored for implementation to mitigate risk for exposure during a pandemic. Attached is the ADMH-DDD policy providing the new requirements for these plans and the implementation thereof. The elements of this policy follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) guidelines and federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19. **Providers must have current plans updated to reflect all requirements and those plans should be submitted to your respective Regional Office by July 6, 2020.** Upon Regional Office

approval, plans should be made available upon request for review by ADMH-DDD Staff, Support Coordination Entities, and other state/federal monitoring entities as appropriate. Please note ALL Settings should be considered when writing your plan. Therefore, the provider plan should take into consideration current open settings and those opening in the future.

Individual Risk and Person-Centered Planning Assessments – Completed by Support Coordinators

As referenced in the Infectious Disease Emergency Plan referenced above, Individual Risk Assessments should be completed on every individual receiving services. These risk assessments provide documentation for Person Centered Planning during this time of crisis and, documentation for needed changes to PCPs and Plan of Cares needed for changes in services that may be needed as desired by the individual. Attached you will find four documents: the COVID-19 Individual Risk Assessment and Person-Centered Planning Discussion Guide, the COVID-19 Individual Risk and Person-Centered Planning Assessment, COVID-19 Employment Assessment, the Support Coordinators Data Sheet and an Alternative Service Guide.

A collaborative effort of all support Team members, led by the Support Coordinator, will determine what services and supports are currently desired by the individual and/or needed by completing the COVID-19 Individual Risk Assessment and Person-Centered Planning Assessment. ADMH Advocates, or others, may be included as additional resources where appropriate. It is important that all members of the individual's support network be engaged in this process for the best possible outcome for those served. The discussion guide is made available to provide suggestions for conversation with the individual, family and other members of the support Team. The COVID-19 Employment Assessment should be completed for those with desired employment outcomes.

Once the Support Coordinator has completed all assessment information for all individuals in their caseload, they should then complete the Data Sheet to **ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov** **NO LATER THAN July 10, 2020.**

If, as a result of the Individual Risk and PCP Assessment, a change in services is desired or needed by the individual, the Support Coordinator will update the Plan of Care and submit the information to the Regional Office. Please note the following: If the assessment results in individuals choosing to receive 24-hour residential services an updated IRBI will need to be submitted to the Regional Office prior to 8/1/20.

Virtual Day Services

As approved in the Appendix K, virtual services can be provided for in-home habilitation. Day Habilitation Services may be billed as virtual services provided in the home. Virtual services must be documented along with the reason this method of service provision is chosen. Also, as provided for in the Appendix K, prescriptions for Assistive Technology is waived for the period of the health emergency and a physician or other licensed health care provider's verbal order is acceptable. The recommendation must be documented in the PCP and must include who made the recommendation and why the recommendation was requested/needed.

ID/LAH Waiver Amendments

ID/LAH waiver amendments were approved during COVID-19 and providers should be familiar with and ensure compliance with all waiver changes. Several questions have been asked about the Community Experience. With the amended waiver changes, please note the following:

- Individuals are only eligible for Community Experience if they are not receiving Day Habilitation (facility/community) services
- Only certified Day Habilitation providers qualify to provide Community Experience service
- Individuals in Residential Habilitation can receive Community Experiences services if they choose them, however, this service can not be billed during the same time Residential Habilitation is billed.

RESOURCES

Additional resources related to the COVID-19 impact on individuals with intellectual disabilities NPR report <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/09/872401607/covid-19-infections-and-deaths-are-higher-among-those-with-intellectual-disabili> Study <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1936657420300674>