

**ADMH Division of Developmental Disabilities
Coordinating Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Summary
August 4, 2020**

Participants: There were 252 Participants.

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by AC Pezent.

2. Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Approval of July 7, 2020 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

4. COVID-19

COVID-19 Impact Report/Trend Analysis (Connie Batiste): DD providers reported a total of 877 COVID-19 tests that were administered to individuals in the community. COVID-19 cases continue to increase as 141 new tests were administered across the state in one week (07/27/2020 – 08/03/2020). The breakdown of the data is listed below (a detailed report which included charts/graphs was emailed to everyone).

Region	Tested	Positive	Deaths
1	262	48	3
2	170	22	2
3	239	73	2
4	103	20	1
5	103	20	0
Total	877	183	8

Agency Staff COVID-19 Data: ADMH-DD Employment Specialists collected data on COVID-19 testing and outcomes for staff employed with community providers beginning March 31, 2020 to current. The following report outlines comprehensive regional findings for provider agency staff (a detailed report which included charts/graphs was emailed to everyone).

Region	Staff Tested	Staff Positives	Staff Deaths
1	3392	174	0
2	139	33	1
3	287	184	1
4	157	66	1
5	70	20	0
Total	4045	477	3

A request was made to report data on individuals being hospitalized due to COVID-19. Currently, data is not being collected but it can be provided in the future according to Dr. McCall.

Appendix K (Terry Pezent): The goal is to submit Appendix K to CMS today. An increase of 1800 to 2400 for specialized medical services for the individuals has been included. A request for self-directed personal care overtime rates was included as well. A detailed summary of Appendix K will be provided to everyone by Ms. Wingard once the amendment is approved.

Dr. Ferguson inquired about the hazard pay. A discussion was held about including this in the K as opposed to providers receiving hazard pay through the CARES Act. It was pointed out that the providers rates were increased 19% across the board to cover some overtime expenses and other expenses. In regard to the CARES Act funds, it is Mr. Slate understanding that State Finance is working on how to pay PPE in Phase I and pay the irregular overtime and hazard pay in Phase II. A member pointed out that if hazard pay was included in Appendix K than providers can get 75%, but under the CARES Act, providers will get 100% because it is federal. Ms. Wettingfield was asked to wait until AC Pezent review the Appendix K once again before it is submitted to CMS.

Angela Peters, a provider from Region 1, expressed her on-going challenges that resulted from COVID-19. Ms. Waren will follow up with the CSD so that they reach out to Ms. Peters.

COVID-19 Workgroup (Terry Pezent): The COVID 19 workgroup continues to meet to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on individuals served, families, services and budget. If any provider has questions, they can submit those to any member of that group. Members were listed on the last COVID-19 Guidance. The meetings are held every Tuesday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

Mr. Slate will send the IRIBI information to everybody.

Virtual Support Services – Madison County (Lei Jackson): Lei Jackson provided a very helpful presentation on Virtual Support Services. The presentation is located on the Arc of Madison County Website. The presentation was emailed to everyone.

5. Status of Waivers and Other Waiver Related Information

ID /LAH Renewals (Terry Pezent for Rita Wingard): Another review is needed before submitting the renewals for public comments. Ms. Wettingfield indicated this will possibly occur today. The public comment period is a 30-day timeline for waiver renewals. There was an inquiry regarding whether a provider bill for more than 5 hours for community day hab? It was pointed out that day hab services cannot exceed 5 hours a day. Flexibility will be reviewed for the next waiver amendment since the current amendment needs to move forward as soon as possible.

Community Waiver Program (Kevin LaPorte): The three (3) waiver applications were submitted to CMS last week. The CWP provider meeting will be held on August 25, 2020. Also, training for DSPs and providers is being planned.

Public Comments Responses (Harrison Black): Ms. Wettingfield will check to see when the Responses be posted to the Public Comments. Information was already submitted to CMS.

Status to RFPs (Harrison Black): Region 2 RFP deadline is August 14th. The Evaluation RFP to evaluate the community waiver program and the Training RFP to provide training to DSPs will

hopefully be posted to the website within the next 8 days. There is also a separate specialized training RFP.

6. Budget Status

Mr. Slate reported that the benefits from the FMAP were received and the refund is going back to Jan 1, 2020. A greater portion is apart of the CARES Act. The fiscal office is working to see exactly where the retainer's payment for the 60% that went out in July is what was billed in March 2020 for day services providers? The residential rate increase will still be in effect, and this is included in the Appendix K.

For someone receiving residential and want to participate in day activities, can they still bill? AC Pezent will provide clarification about this inquiry at the next DDD Providers Guidance.

DD Subcommittee Budget Workgroup (Deanna Ferguson): The DD Subcommittee voting members met with Mr. Slate, Ms. Wingard, and AC Pezent regarding the rate methodology. There are some discrepancies with the methodology calculations and want the methodology to make sense. The group plan to meet tomorrow at 1:00pm to priority the budget request for 2022. Please submit comments/suggestion to Dr. Ferguson at deanna@voase.org

7. Administrative Code

Ms. Croxton provided the following update: Chapters 585-30 and 585-33 were reviewed. The goal was to streamline the chapters and determine what should remained or removed from the code. The chapters were reviewed internally, and the changes were presented to and approved by the DD Subcommittee voting members. The DD Executive staff is working on policies regarding the contents that were removed from the code. Everyone will be notified of the timeline regarding the process to post for public comments.

8. Supported Employment

Mr. White provided an update. The employment specialists continue to be available for technical assistance for supported employment. They continue to work with the subject matter experts for provider transformation. The office of supported employment is also working on enhancing training for job development. There will be comprehensive virtual training course provided by Virginia Commonwealth. In addition, the office of supported employment is hoping to expand services of CWICs. If you need information on this service, please reach out to the employment specialists. If you have any challenges with VR offices, please reach out to the employment specialists as well. The employment specialists are always open to arrange training curriculum needs for providers.

9. Support Coordination

Ms. Allen provided a presentational overview of the Person-Centered Plan Transition Training. A letter regarding the upcoming training in September was emailed to all support coordination agencies. The deadline for the training registration is August 20, 2020. This presentation emailed to everyone.

As of August 10, the regional offices will be processing all requests related to self-directed services. More information regarding this process will be shared with everyone. The supported living services video is now live on the ADMH website.

10. Regional Office Report

Ms. Waren reported virtual monitoring will continue. The regional monitors will be sending requests to agencies asking them to designate someone to complete monitoring sessions. Emails will still be utilized for documentation.

RFA meetings are held once a week, and there is a difference between an RFA request being denied and an RFA request not being processed. CSDs have RFA meetings on Wednesday and Thursdays. If an RFA is sent on the day of the meetings, it will not be processed until the following week. Please reference the DDD Operational Guidelines in regard to the RFA process.

The DD office of community programs is currently working on plans to develop training and technical assistance to support providers and individuals. Improved technical assistance from regional staff will be provided on waiver services.

Many providers did not follow the guidelines for their emergency plans, but some providers related that DDD send too much information to them. The following were a few issues with the plans: one provider used the same plan for all agencies; staff were not required to wear masks; some agencies did not have a screening process; etc.

11. Quality Enhancement Report

Dr. McCall presented the QE report. There were 1,188 reportable incidents reported in the community during this quarter, a significant decrease from 1,530 incidents reported last quarter. Region I reported 261 with a monthly rate of 0.16, Region II reported 190 with a monthly rate of 0.25, Region III reported 321 with a monthly rate of 0.36, Region IV reported 312 with a monthly rate of 0.30, and Region V reported 105 with a monthly rate of 0.10.

There were 5,231 individuals listed on the ID and LAH waivers, including 12 people that are categorized as state only, which yields an overall incident rate of 0.22. The detailed QE report was emailed to everyone.

12. Certification Reviews 3rd Quarter 2020 (April – June)

Ms. Batiste provided the following: The total number reviewed totaled 34 (with regular agency review total = 15; initial/TOAs site review total = 7; initial agency reviews total = 0; follow-up/for cause reviews total = 11). The certification reviews report was emailed to everyone.

13. DD Transition Workgroups

No updated information was reported.

14. Alabama Medicaid Agency (AMA) Updates/Questions

TB Test (Ginger Wettingfeld): It was clarified that outside of the pandemic, the TB Test is required upon hire and then the screening form is required annually.

Statewide Transition Plan (Ginger Wettingfeld): Ms. Abrons/Medicaid sent out a request for an extension of the deadline notice. There is no additional information.

15. DDD Transition Task Force and Workgroups Update

There were no updates.

16. New Business

No new business.

17. Announcements

No announcements.

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in September. Please submit all items to Shirley Hicks. There will be more information on guidance forthcoming very soon. Also, more information is forthcoming regarding funding.



Terry Pezent, ADMH/DD Associate Commissioner



Shirley Hicks, Recorder