

ADMH Division of Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Subcommittee Virtual Meeting June 4, 2020

Participants

There were 300 participants.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order.

Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Approval of May 5, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Subcommittee members agreed to review the previous meeting minutes later. Future meeting information will be sent to members in ample time.

Associate Commissioner Comments (Terry Pezent)

- The Emergency Response Application (Appendix K) for COVID-19 was approved this week by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It will be posted to ADMH/DD website, and a link will be provided to DDD Network Provider. It was recommended that all questions be directed to ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov
- The work sheet grid regarding traditional day services from Rita Wingard will be sent out to everyone. The targeted date for reopening day services is July 1, 2020. The Division is in the process of completing operational guidelines, in which providers are required to update their COVID-19 plans. Hopefully, the guidelines will be ready next week.
- An overview of the application process for new services was provided by Connie Batiste. The application for new services is located on ADMH/DD website.

Guidance on COVID-19 (Post COVID-19 Work Group)

A risk benefit assessment is being reviewed. The workgroup is working on a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Guidelines to return to Day and Employment Services. These include reopening tools regarding assessment of facility sites and policies for social distancing. Other states' tools were reviewed by the workgroup, and a template was created for providers to developed policies for facility-based sites. The goal is to send out the assessments/toolkits next week.

COVID-19 Subsidized Funding (Andy Slate)

- The retainers on day services and prevocational services is effective through June 30, 2020 in which the 100% subsidized funding will end. Providers will be notified about the partial subsidy, but as far as the residential enhanced rate of 19%, this will end June 30, 2020. Alabama Medicaid requested that billings be submitted for services performed/rendered only.
- An inquiry was made related to reimbursement for PPE and COVID expenses because these expenses are costly. It was noted that this request was forwarded to ADMH Legislative Liaison. DD is awaiting more guidance from the Governor's office. Providers are asked to submit monthly COVID related expenses updates by the 10th of each month. Providers should contact their respective regional community services directors for the expense form.

- Inquiries were made related to the Living at Home (LAH) rates and the status of the rates modifiers changes in ADIDIS. Andy Slate will check on the status of the updated rates and Terry Pezent will also contact Rita Wingard regarding the status of the updated rates in ADIDIS.
- The tool kit risk assessment will be posted to the ADMH/DD website. Information will also be sent out next week.
- The website link for the ID and LAH waiver information will be provided, and the old waiver information will be deleted from the website.
- The DDD Operational Guidelines next print is July 2020.

Community Waiver Program (Kevin LaPorte)

- The Community Waiver Program application is in the process of being finalized by CMS. The Public Comment period deadline is June 24, 2020, and the Public Hearing is on June 10, 2020. The summary of the Community Waiver Program and Stakeholder Summary, as well as the Public Hearing information are located on the website. Website links will also be provided to everyone.
- Today, a notification will be sent to the selected providers who responded to the RFP.

COVID-19 Statistical Trends - Individuals Receiving Services and Staff (Connie Batiste)

ADMH-DD incident Managers began managing COVID-19 incidents on March 23, 2020 and providing oversight in Therap for COVID-19 testing and health outcomes. The statistical trends and data for individual COVID-19 incidents covering all five regions was provided.

- There was a total of 131 individuals tested in the state since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the 131 individuals tested, 16 individuals representing 12.21% of the population tested positive. Unfortunately, there were 3 mortalities.
- ADMH-DD Employment Specialists collect data on COVID-19 agency staff testing and outcomes. There were 1,807 agency staff tested for COVID-19 with only 82 staff tested positive for the virus (4.5%).
- Therap is real time reporting and features will be added to enable tracking the number of individuals exposed to the virus.
- Providers shared their different experiences related to obtaining testing for individuals. Since there were some concerns about how to obtain testing, everyone was encouraged to call the Alabama Department of Public Health for testing information. Everyone was also encouraged to review the Department of Public Health Order regarding family congregate and family communication.

Supported Employment (Byron White)

The employment staff are always accessible for employment issues and have participated in virtual meetings.

- a. Webinars – Foundation for Change, Pathways to Community
Next week, ADMH/DD will sponsor two web-based training opportunities to assist with plans to resume all services: 1) “Foundation for Change”, June 10, 2020 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, and 2) “Pathways to the Community”, June 11, 2020 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. The trainings will address how to provide necessary supports to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities while addressing health and safety. Presenters are Thomas Wilds and Genni Sasnett, consultants from Washington, D.C. A flyer containing information on how to attend the webinar training was distributed to everyone. In addition to the two webinars, a live workshop will be

conducted by the two consultants, Thomas Wilds and Genni Sasnett. There will be a panel to answer questions. In preparation of the workshop, a brief survey will be sent out to everyone.

- b. Updated Employment Numbers during COVID-19 Crisis
During March, a one-page data sheet was sent out to providers regarding employment statistics. On March 1, 987 individuals were working in the community. Of this number, 130 were in group supported employment while the other 857 were employed in individualized supported employment. After the onset of the COVID pandemic, 463 were able to maintain their employment, including 12 in group supported employment. Of those no longer working, 423 were furloughed, 47 were laid off and 55 individuals chose to end their employment.
- c. Project SEARCH has been impacted as well. All 16 programs were suspended by the host school system. The state team expected to lose some PS programs prior to the beginning of the 2021 school year.
- d. Currently working to schedule to the Certificate-Based Customized/Supported Employment training that was cancelled in April. Announcement will be released once consultants confirm potential dates.
- e. Office of Consumer Empowerment
George Neal is currently working on two virtual webinars entitled, 1) What is a Pandemic and 2) The New Norm. These webinars are targeted for the individuals we serve.

Other Business

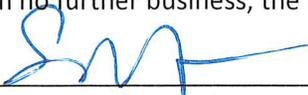
- Statewide Transition Plan (Rebecca Wright). CMS did not change the timeline for the statewide transition plan. The self-assessment process is more robust. The quarterly spreadsheet is due from ADMH/DD. The next quarterly report should reflect what is needed for heightened scrutiny. If a setting is deemed to be isolated, Medicaid will review the setting to see what needs to be done to bring the setting into compliance. A list of settings will be sent to CMS for a heightened scrutiny review and they will decide on which settings they would like to review. As soon as Medicaid received numbers from ADMH/DD spreadsheet, they will submit the report to CMS.
- Self-Directed Services (Francilla Allen). For agencies who hires new support coordinators, new support coordination training is required. Effective this month, the host agency site is now RELIAS with the fee being \$20.00 for support coordinators. After the completion of this training, 4 credits are allotted to social workers.
- The PCP transformation is still on target for the new format, effective October 1, 2020. Training will be held in September 2020. Notification regarding training will be sent out in August 2020.

Next Meeting

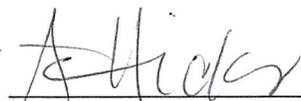
The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 7, 2020.

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Terry L. Pezent, ADMH/DD Associate Commissioner



Shirley Hicks, Recorder