



Notes from 6.29.20 COVID TA (Team Alliance) Call

- **State Dept. Representative Updates, if attending**
 - None at this time
- **Alliance Updates**
 - Alliance Members: We sent out a schedule for the new biweekly TA Webinars, please contact Kylie if you need that information. Moving forward the webinars will be password protected and you will be required to sign on before you can attend. We will also be addressing non-COVID issues as needed.
 - Denver Post article on END THE WAIT: <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/06/28/covid-colorado-budget-human-cost/>
 - Alliance email sent to the public: [We will need to wait a bit longer: An Update on END THE WAIT](#)
 - Weekly PPE Update:
 - Global Down Syndrome Foundation has disposable masks, gowns, and face shields. They have reached out to CCBs and some have received supplies. GDS reached out to CCBs and required an interview to access the PPE. If you are a CCB that chose not to do the “interview” or if you are a PASA that is interested in accessing this PPE, let Alliance know. Our understating is it is a donation.
 - In the first week of July, CDPHE will try to grant IDD Group Homes access to the PPE real-time tracking/requesting system. It sounds like this will also be a requirement.
 - Weekly Testing Update
 - We are still waiting on testing for Group Homes and other IDD facilitates. We were told this would happen in early July. There is free community testing throughout the state, but it is not in every community. You can visit the CDPHE Testing page for more information: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-in-colorado/about-covid-19/testing-for-covid-19>
- **Colorado Legislative Report by Emma Hudson Consulting and Colorado Legislative Strategies**
 - Session is over! EHC’s End of Session Report can be found linked on this page: <https://www.alliancecolorado.org/legislative-updates-19-20>
 - Alliance’s GRACE has sent a recommendation for the 2020 Legislator of the Year to the full BOD for virtual vote. Voting closed at midnight on June 30th. All Alliance BOD members should have received an email from Josh last week. It did not go to the full membership.
 - We will host an Alliance Virtual Awards Gala. More info to come on the Gala.
- **Governor’s office Updates**
 - [Gov Polis Signed the 2020-21 Long Bill](#) and the DSP compensation (for HB18-1407) reporting bill. That provides a balanced budget. However, we are hearing mid-year reductions might be needed. OSPB directed the Departments to come up with additional budget reductions. They’re hedging for a negative budget year so they’re asking Departments to prepare a 10% cut. That’s not unusual. Hopefully, they don’t end up needing to use it.
 - [Colorado Emergency Declaration Extended to July 30, 2020.](#) We will be working with HCPF to try and understand how this relates to retainer payments. We still don’t have an end date and continue to advocate for them to be in place as long as possible.
 - It would be nice to have a tiered reduction of the retainer payments instead of a complete cut off/ending.- it sounds like this is something that might happen.
 - Pursuant to a Governor Order: businesses shall have discretion to deny admittance or service to, and require the removal of, any individual who fails to wear a medical or non-medical face covering. This Executive Order is available at [EO D 2020-110.](#)

- 7th Amendment to Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home into the Vast, Great Outdoors. It's available at [7th Amendment to PHO 20-28](#). Events are no longer capped at 10 people (see below for additional information). Recreational activities also got some tweaks in this amended PHO.
 - 10+ "gathering" restriction and allow a variety of indoor and outdoor venues to host larger events up to a designated cap. What's notable in the updated PHO is an entirely new term, "Social Distancing Calculator"—which defines how many people can be allowed in any particular venue based on size. Moreover, in certain "extra-large" venues (e.g. bars, restaurants, churches, and higher education facilities) the calculator can be used to exceed the crowd cap that would normally apply. For more info on the Social Distance Calculator, go to: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/social-distancing-calculator-for-indoor-and-outdoor-events>
- [Lt Gov Press Release: Josh Winkler is joining the office as the new Disability Funding Committee and Policy Advisor](#).
 - For the last decade Josh Winkler has been advocating for people with disabilities as a volunteer by serving on numerous non-profit and Governor appointed boards, volunteer lobbying, and working with state agencies on regulations and policies. Feel free to send a congrats to Josh!
- **CDHS: OEC Update**
 - Alliance EI Task Force will be scheduling several meetings to discuss recommendations to CDHS/OSPB's decision to reduce eligibility for EI services. Those recommendations will be sent to the Alliance GRACE/Executive Committees. OEC is trying to run an emergency rule to reduce EI eligibility. Alliance has yet to take a position on this policy change but will be discussing it this week. Contact Josh for more information.
 - Proposed EI Budget Reductions by the Office of Early Childhood (CDHS): https://6862fd08-624b-44c0-8713-e4178d6f3ae1.filesusr.com/ugd/81fcc7_fc892ba8a49c47a189cd72aa9f354f4b.pdf
- **CDPHE Updates**
 - Group Home Outbreaks:
 - We are down to only one "active" outbreak in Colorado. Josh spoke with the agency and they are well on the way to "resolving" the outbreak <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/outbreak-data>.
 - It sounds like CDPHE conducted their in-person survey on all 120 Group Homes, and they went well. Great work everyone!
 - In August, CDPHE will be starting Group Home and ICF Rule Making updates. They will be reviewing the rules to make sure it is up to date.
 - **Question for Alliance Members:** Has anyone received permission from CDPHE to join <https://www.connecttocarejobs.com> yet? If so, reach out to Josh. We are interested to learn more about this process/website.
- **HCPF Updates**
 - Guidance:
 - [Operational Memo - Updated: Operational Changes to the HCBS Non-Medical Transportation Benefit for COVID-19 \(June 24, 2020\)](#): more than one person per vehicle allowed for vehicles that accommodate more than 5 people (see guidance). Members of same household/GH can ride together, regardless of size. Cleaning specifications between riders.
 - [Informational Memo - Rate Decreases for Home and Community-Based Services \(June 23, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform providers and case management agencies (CMAs) of changes to rates for home and community-based services (HCBS) offered through HCBS waivers.
 - New rates are listed on the Department's [website](#) – scroll down to HCBS.
 - [Guidance for residential care facilities outdoor visitation](#): includes ICF and group homes. (Indoor visitation will require a new public health order and it is underway).
 - Governor Polis (CDPHE) released guidance to allow outdoor visitation at residential care facilities in order to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. Some of the most important standards:
 - The facility cannot have outdoor visitation if the facility had any recent positive cases or outbreaks and has not completed the required isolation period of 14 days. Facilities with active cases are not allowed to offer visits.
 - All visits must be scheduled. Prior to the visits, facilities must provide information about COVID-19, and instructions for self-screening on the day of the visit, social distancing and mask-wearing, and details about the visit.

- The visitor must be greeted outside at a designated area by facility staff, and the staff member will perform temperature check and symptom screening in accordance with current CDC guidelines.
 - All visitors must wear a face mask or cloth face covering. All staff and the resident must wear a surgical or cloth mask unless doing so would inhibit the resident's health.
 - View the [full guidance here](#).
 - [CDPHE Portal Message on Outdoor Visitation Guidance](#) (6.24.20)
- **Webinars:**
 - May's unemployment rate is the highest it's been since CO began tracking in 1976 (10.2%).
 - Approvals for our Appendix K amendment - through Jan 26, 2021, but the state can elect to stop flexibilities when they choose.
 - Rate decreases effective 7/1
 - Denver city/county regional increase effective 1/1/21 for service provided within Denver county. HCPF is working on how this will be implemented.
 - EM Resource participation will be required for residential facilities in a future PHO, but group homes have yet to be added.
- **FAQ: N/A**
- **CDLE update**
 - None at this time.
- **Federal Updates**
 - HRSA webinars on Provider Relief Fund - https://webex.webcasts.com/viewer/event.jsp?ei=1334670&tp_key=e1fef78f9b
 - That portal is open to apply for additional funding for COVID-related losses.
 - ANCOR survey related to Provider Relief fund – if your agency is ineligible to receive funds because you were eligible to receive Medicare provider relief in the first disbursement, please complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ineligible-for-current-Medicaid-tranche>
 - ANCOR PR Outreach to Denver Post and Gazette Editorial Board
 - ANCOR is looking for providers to send a memo to the editorial board(s) of the *Denver Post* and the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. "We have chosen these outlets in your state because Senator Cory Gardner is one of our congressional targets during "Phase 2" of the #ForgottenFaces campaign. You're welcome to adapt it and send it to other outlets in your state as well."
 - Contact Josh ASAP.
 - Alliance U.S. Senator Town Hall
 - Sen. Bennett is in! We will likely host a 30-min town hall with members of GRACE. We are still waiting to hear from Sen. Gardner, but they will likely be two different meetings if we confirm with Gardner.
- **Q&A**
 - Qs for HCPF:
 - Delayed timelines in getting PASA approvals (new PASA, new service)
 - Concerns re NMT guidance: a lot of providers use 12-passenger vans and think it makes sense to have 3 or 4 people as the limit for those.
 - Are PPP loans considered part of the first general fund? No. You can still be eligible for the additional relief money, but you do need to include the PPP information in your application.
- **Dates to note:**
 - All HCBS Providers and CM HCPF Webinar: July 10 at noon
 - Next COVID Team Alliance Webinar: July 13th at 11am
 - TA FAQ for HCBS Providers and CM July 17th at noon
 - Alliance BOD/State Forum will not meet until August 20th

Open call to Membership for Discussion: Alliance's DRAFT COVID Public Policy Priorities Document. Please provide feedback to Alliance staff on this call or by July 1, 2020. (Contact Josh or Ellen for the document).

- What do we want to keep/change post-COVID?

- The document starts off with an introductory paragraph about recognizing that while COVID has been a challenge for all of us, it is also an opportunity to leverage some of the quickly-enacted policy solutions.