



Notes from 4.27.20 COVID TA Call

State Dept. Representative Updates

- No state staff on the call. Updates and reminders are discussed by Alliance staff in notes below.

Alliance Updates

- **Safer at Home:**

- Order was released last night: <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-issues-executive-order-safer-home> will expire in 30 days from today (April 27th)
 - Definition of “Vulnerable Person” was changed from previous Orders – no longer includes anyone with a disability. Now includes: individuals 65+; people with chronic lung disease or mod-sev asthma, serious heart conditions, or who are immunocompromised; pregnant women; and anyone determined to be high risk by a licensed healthcare provider. These individuals should stay at home except in certain circumstances.
 - Anyone who is sick or tests positive for COVID should stay at home except as necessary to care for themselves or seek medical care.
 - All Critical businesses (we believe this includes IDD providers) are strongly encouraged to allow workers to telecommute whenever possible. Critical businesses may continue to operate with mandatory social distancing and cleaning protocols.
 - Critical businesses with 50+ employees must follow protocols such as symptom screening and temp checks, closure of common areas, cleaning protocols, and social distancing.
 - We recommend you maintain current stay-at-home practices for IDD services by following HCPF operational guidance ([OM 2-046](#)) until further notice: "[At no time shall the delivery of community-based services include more than ten people, to include support staff. At all times, support staff shall ensure social distancing recommendations of at least 6 feet are followed. Services shall be provided via use of technology or in 1:1 settings wherever possible.](#)"
 - Everyone should wear masks when in public. Face coverings and gloves are required for critical businesses per [PHO 20-26, including IDD providers.](#)
 - Most large events will likely be canceled for the summer. SABE’s October conference was canceled.
 - Please check your local ordinances, as many have extended their stay-at-home orders. They can implement stricter guidelines too. For example, Denver, Arapaho, and Adams counties have extended stay-at-home orders until May 8th.

- **PPE Update:**

- Continue to check Alliance’s page on this:
<https://www.alliancecolorado.org/covidissuedirectory>
- **Continue to follow 4-step protocol listed on the Alliance page linked above:**
 - CCBs/PASAs: After reaching out to the state/local resources, are you still experiencing a PPE emergency? If so, let Alliance know at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88HDSYJ>
 - NEW supplemental PPE contact Michelle Whitten, AJSF mswhitten@ajsfoundation.com (after you use the state’s PPE protocol)

- Note: An email from Michelle went out to CCB Directors only for information on staffing, group homes, PPE, etc. and we expressed our concerns to her that only asking CCBs for this may cause some confusion, so we are working to schedule a call to clarify what she needs and talk about her email.
 - State of Colorado receives [Battelle System](#) to decontaminate used N95 masks: Learn how to sign up [here](#)! (4.24.20)
- **Alliance 2020 Legislative Strategy**
 - Will work on positive PR Campaign messaging and kudos to the Governor and HCPF on how they have helped us.
 - GRACE will be talking about what state/fed flexibilities we want to fight to keep post emergency declaration. Your GRACE Committee will be meeting this week to prioritize things we want to fight to keep and budget related JBC actions.
 - FYI- advocates are talking about pushing back on going back to some types of group settings like day programs and group homes. Alliance will monitor this.
 - Report from Emma Hudson Consulting:
 - On Subminimum wage bill: Alliance SMW Shock Team met last week about conversations she had with legislators and budget outlook and this bill. The group identified some strategies to look at reducing the fiscal note. Legislators received the initial pass of the figure setting documents and the budget. Emma asked one legislator if it shows the \$2.3B hole we were expecting, and the legislator said it much more. JBC will begin work on May 4th with a budget forecast on May 12 and session back on May 18 or 19. They will be back in session for about 3 weeks vs the 52 days that remains in session. Rep. Esgar, JBC Chair, said we should see the figure setting documents available today, so if those come out, it will help us understand where the budget impacts will be, and we will share with members.

State Dept Updates

- CDPHE
 - New Outbreak Data: Wheat Ridge Regional Center - Iris House (2 people)
 - Question: A member noticed an IRSS outbreak reported on the CDPHE website. It is a 3 bed PCA. We know CDPHE is not reporting host homes, but are they reporting PCAs?
 - Response from CDPHE: From the data definitions that the DCPHR and Epi team developed to inform what outbreaks get posted, and what ones do not, a PCA falls outside the definition of a private residence (like a host home) as it's a 24/7 operated setting overseen and staffed by the respective PASA. Therefore, yes, PCA's will likely continue to be included in the data list should they have an outbreak of 2 or more persons in the setting.
 - [State releases public health order requiring critical business employees to wear masks \(4.23.20\)](#)
 - **REMINDER:** CDPHE's PPE [survey](#) for IDD residential facilities. **Please complete this survey by Monday, April 27 the at 5:00 p.m.** The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Each facility should only complete the survey once. Thank you for your assistance in attempting to slow the spread of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
 - CDPHE Public Health Order, Facility Isolation Plans: By May 1, 2020, CDPHE will require Facility Isolation Plans from residential facilities, this includes ICFs and group homes.
 - **There is an enforcement clause in this order, so make sure you get your reports in to CDPHE by May 1, 2020!!!** (sent 4.21.20) [Amended Public Health Order 20-](#)

[20: Restricting Visitors at All Colorado Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Residences, and Intermediate Care Facilities \(PDF\)](#)

- Facilities will submit those isolation plans to: <mailto:COVID-19FacilityIsolationPlan@state.co.us>
 - To assist with plan development, a template has been developed and can be located here: [Isolation Plan Template](#). A new web page has also been created to provide direction and guidance for long term care and residential facilities. To view this page, which contains the public health order, facility guidance, and other resources visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/ltaf>.
- CDLE
 - The Colorado Office of Employment First (COEF) is looking to gather some information from CCBs and PASAs about how COVID has impacted your work and those that you serve. Please complete the following survey, which is anonymous and should take less than 10 minutes. We sent this on one of our COVID Newsletters last week.
 - To maintain confidentiality for your job seekers, please do not share their names or any identifying information.
 - Link to Survey: <https://forms.gle/xf7pKd3erwhG9Kt68>
 - Please send questions to Layla Mauldin, layla.mauldin@state.co.us
 - [Employment First COVID-19 - Webinar Series: "Re-framing Supported Employment: "What is the Future of Work?", Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm MST \(4.24.20\)](#)
- HCPF Friday webinar update
 - HCPF report on JBC-requested projections for flat projection, “deep” cuts and “deeper” cuts should be public today.
 - Testing: deploying a “strike team” to ensure people in the community are safe.
 - A lot of new guidance was issued by HCPF last week and FAQs were updated Thursday to match new guidance:
 - [Operational Memo OM 20-049](#)
 - Informs Case Management Agencies (CMAs) of temporary operational changes. **No need for PMIP for assessments completed on or after March 18.**
 - [Operational Memo OM 20-048](#)
 - Informs Providers and Case Management Agencies of temporary rate increases. **No pass-through requirement, however the intention is to use these to support DSPs and ensure compliance with infection control guidance. Retroactive to 4/1 – 6/30, subject to dept’s discretion. Services that received the temp increases are:**
 - **CHRP foster care & group home 8%**
 - **CDASS SLS 4%**
 - **GRSS/IRSS/HH 8% (includes level 7s)**
 - **Homemaker 4%**
 - **Personal care in SLS 4%**
 - **You must adjust claims for new rate. Billing guidance and CM guidance are included in the memo.**
 - [Operational Memo OM 20-047](#)
 - Informs Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) participants and Case Management Agencies (CMAs) of temporary changes to allow payments for sick time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Operational Memo OM 20-046](#)
 - Informs Providers and Case Management Agencies of additional temporary changes in response to COVID-19 pandemic to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver benefits and services offered through Health First Colorado. **This is an update to a prior memo. Services with changes: Community Connector, Homemaker (can be provided by a Legally Responsible Person), Personal Care (can be provided by a spouse), SCC (can be provided by a Legally Responsible Person), and Supported Employment (can bill retainer payments).**
- [Operational Memo OM 20-045](#)
 - Informs Single Entry Points (SEPs), Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Case Management Agencies (CMAs). **Do not issue Notice of Action (LTC-803) for a member's functional eligibility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic except when the person requests the change, dies, or moves out of state. Applies to all adverse actions. Changes to Service Plan can be made.**
- [Operational Memo OM 20-044](#)
 - Informs Case Management Agencies (CMAs) of Critical Incident Reporting (CIR) changes to the Benefits Utilization System (BUS), and to outline case manager reporting, service coordination and monitoring requirements for COVID-19. **COVID-19 is now an option in BUS for reporting critical incidents. Activities identified when a person has or is presumed to have COVID.**
- [Operational Memo OM 20-043](#)
 - Informs Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) stakeholders of temporary changes to the PASRR process

Federal Updates:

- Second tranche of Public Health and Social Services fund of \$30B is going out, and HHS announced that about \$10B of that will be for Medicaid providers. We believe this includes IDD providers, although HHS was not explicit. Expect checks to flow directly to provider agencies via tax ID/Medicaid provider ID. Unclear how much will go to HCBS vs home health/nursing homes/public hospitals, etc. We think the formula will be based on the allocation that Medicare providers got: 6.2% of prior-year Medicare revenues. ANCOR is asking HHS to be more explicated with respect to identifying IDD providers specifically as agencies that can get the funding.
- Congress passed an interim funding bill while they are still working on the 4th larger funding package. Call it the “#3.5” funding bill, which allocates an additional \$75B to the PHSS fund for hospitals and other healthcare providers and expands the PPP program.
- 4th funding package expected to be completed by Memorial Day. Not much talk about funding packages beyond that.

Q & A (Members – remember that we are posting your questions and our replies/discussion from the chat box in the [PASA Peer Network Forum in the member portal](#) and not in these notes)

Announcements:

- Next COVID-19 TA call is May 4 at 11:00am and calls will likely go through May.
- REMINDER: Facility Isolation Plans are due May 1. As of today, they have no responses/plans from ICFs or Group Homes, but make sure you do these ASAP.