



### **Notes from 06.15.20 COVID TA Call**

**6.15.20**

- **Alliance Updates**

- COVID-19 TA (Team Alliance) Webinar Schedule
  - June 22<sup>nd</sup> TA Webinar might be canceled.
    - Alliance, with help from our membership and Summit Sponsors, will be hosting over 20 webinars this week for the Alliance Annual Membership Meetings and the 2020 Alliance Virtual Summit.
  - June 29<sup>th</sup> is our last scheduled TA webinar. We will decide if we want to do a webinar weekly, every other week, or just via email. We welcome your feedback!
    - Poll: COVID-19 TA (Team Alliance) Webinars in the summer of 2020: If we keep the TA Webinars, we might move them to Tuesday mornings and we might include broader non-COVID updates as well.
      - Continue weekly TA webinars, moving to Tuesdays (30%)
      - Only host TA Webinars every other week, on Tuesdays (51%)
      - Only send email updates, and host TA Webinars as needed (20%)
- 2020 Alliance Virtual Summit officially starts TOMORROW at 12:30pm! Kylie sent an email to registered attendees on Friday at 8:45am. If you registered and did not get her email on Friday, check your junk or clutter mailboxes!! You may have also entered your email wrong, so reach out to Kylie to check.
  - Be sure to sign on to the presentations early to officially register for the session. It will ask for your name, email, title, and organization.
- Alliance Virtual Town Hall with Colorado Senators
  - This is still TBD. We invited both our US Senators and are working with their schedulers to see if this can happen. Probably in July.
- PR Update
  - We have still been receiving good press coverage! Tom Turner published another great article last week. We are working with ANCOR on some more op-eds and stories. Josh will be reaching out to members next week, but let him know if you have a good story to tell or a PR connection in your community.
    - [Colorado Leads the Way; Tom Turner, Community Options - published by Montrose Daily Press](#) (6.9.20)
- Weekly PPE Update
  - Does anyone have a contact for purchasing disinfecting wipes and sprays? Please email Josh.
  - "I have heard on a couple of webinars that some counties are not providing PPE anymore." If this is true, let Josh know. Try contacting Sadie Martinez directly if this

happens. To report issues in obtaining PPE please notify Sadie Martinez, Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management, CDPHE 720.610.1692  
[sadie.martinez@state.co.us](mailto:sadie.martinez@state.co.us)

- Weekly Testing Update
  - Has anyone been contacted about testing at group homes? That should be starting soon, as more testing is available. We will also follow up with HCPF/CDPHE this week.
- Alliance Questions for HCPF
  - Alliance is still taking HCPF Questions and reviewing them with OCL staff. Send us your question, comments, suggestions by Wednesday at noon.
  - Questions for HCPF/Alliance [Submitted 6.10.20](#)
- **Colorado Legislative Report by Emma and Jim** (Alliance Government Relations Committee Update)
  - No report today. The Alliance Government Relations Advisory Committee of Excellence will present on a more in-depth Colorado legislative update on Wednesday at 9:00am with Colorado's Office of Community Living presentation to follow. On Thursday at 9:00am you will hear federal updates from D.C. during the ANCOR presentation.
- **Governor's office Updates**
  - DENVER - Gov. Polis signed [Executive Order D 2020 104, temporarily suspending certain statutes to maintain eligibility for Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health Plan. Extended to July 14, 2020.](#) (6.14.20)
    - "This Executive Order extends Executive Order D 2020 068, which ensures compliance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act by temporarily suspending certain statutes to allow for continued eligibility or benefits status for those individuals enrolled in Medicaid as of March 18, 2020 and to prevent any changes in eligibility, and directs the Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to delay the collection of annual fees for those enrolled in Colorado's Children's Basic Health Plan," the Executive Order reads.
- **CDHS: OEC Update**
  - RCs: have begun phased prevalence testing within the WRRC and will be adding GJ and Pueblo onto that. If we can get to phase 3, we could potentially initiate visits with family, but no guidelines on that yet.
- **CDPHE Updates**
  - Outbreak Data: Only one open case in the community in an IDD group home with three people reported contracting COVID. The other three outbreaks have been resolved with no deaths.
- **HCPF Updates**
  - New HCPF Guidance: Informational Memo 24 – HHS provider relief funds
  - New FAQ Updates re: Telehealth/Telemedicine
    - As a provider, I used to spend much more time delivering services face-to-face. Now, I spend much less time, less than half, using virtual methods. Can I bill for the time it usually would take me to provide the service?
      - A: HCBS providers may only bill for the time and services rendered. The Department understands that many services are now being rendered via virtual or electronic means and these services may take less time to render than traditional face-to-face service delivery, or members do not have the technological means for virtual services, or members do not wish to receive virtual services for great lengths of time. However, regardless of the service

delivery method, providers may only bill for services rendered, even if it is below the authorized amount in the Service Plan.

- HCPF Webinar Updates from Friday
  - Discussion around the continued expansion of telehealth benefits and need to create proper rates for those services (lower cost than in-person due to lower facilities costs).
  - Josh Winkler is now working in the Gov's Office as the Disability Funding Committee Coordinator and Policy Advisor.
  - HCPFs work on the new "Normal" – there will be changes to the strategic plan that was unveiled last fall.
- Questions answered by HCPF to Alliance
  - Re: Thermometer Guidance: we have not stated in any of our memos that providers have to use temporal thermometers. I think this question came specifically from an ACF provider, to which my response was we are not holding them to a higher standard but asking them to align with what CDPHE has stated. Accordingly, CDPHE does say in their screening tools to use temporal or no touch thermometers. The same with the CDC. We strongly encourage them to follow this guidance, but it is not stated it is required within the memorandums we have released.
- **CDLE Updates**
  - None at this time.
- **Federal Updates**
  - Medicaid Provider Relief Fund
    - HHS planning to distribute \$15B from the PHSS fund to Medicaid providers who did not receive \$ through the first tranche.
    - Deadline: July 20. Provider portal now open. ANCOR collecting FAQs.
    - Note: feds have told ANCOR you cannot use two different federal dollars to cover the same expense (e.g. PPP loan and this funding). Interaction w/ retainer payments – HHS planning to issue guidance to states on this. Submissions are expected to be made public – be thoughtful in how you apply; track all COVID expenses in the same place to make tracking easier. All HCBS services qualify as "patient care", and every person you serve counts as a "possible case of COVID-19". If used in accordance with the terms and conditions, payments do not need to be repaid. Does not appear to be a deadline for spending the funds.
    - Does anyone want to share their experience? How many are planning to apply?
      - **Is this funding available for case management agencies too?**
        - To our knowledge, they do not differentiate HCBS and state-planned services, but we will double check with ANCOR.
      - We plan on applying to cover transportation losses.
      - We are planning to apply because some families have not been willing to try telehealth or don't have access to telehealth for waiver services, so we have lost quite a bit of income due to COVID.
      - We are considering applying for transportation losses and PPE expenses.
      - Take a screenshot of each page as there has been some technical difficulties with the application site.
- **Q&A for HCPF/Alliance**

- **When is the State going to consider updating/alleviating restrictions related to non-medical transportation?**
  - We received this question already and will add to the list for HCPF this week.
  - They announced that the 8% residential rate increase will end 6/30.
  - Approved NEMT restrictions on Friday.
  - Any idea on retainer payment continuation after the current deadline?
- **New rates are not posted do you know when we can expect those?**
  - You will be billing at the new rates starting July 1.
- **Comment in chat box: As the next fiscal year begins, we would suggest advocating for a 4 bed PCA under the IRSS guidelines. this may be a sustainable option to future budget cuts.**
- **COVID NEWS/Webinars/Announcements**
  - Alliance Virtual June Summit 6/16/20 through 6/18/20:  
<https://www.alliancecolorado.org/2020virtualsummit>
  - HCPF Webinars
    - Technical Assistance and FAQ for All HCBS Providers and Case Management Agencies  
**June 19, 2020 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. MDT**
    - All HCBS Providers and Case Management Agencies **June 26, 2020 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. MDM**