Provider Conference Call 10/01/20

Meetings now only once per month – First Thursday of every month
Next conference call will be November 5, 2020 at 10am

County boards of DD agree to pay for second year of HPC rate increase to support DSPs
These rates were approved in the previous Biennium budget but the current state budget shortfall, due to the pandemic, potentially jeopardized the ability to implement the rate increase. In response, Ohio’s 88 county boards of developmental disabilities have agreed to pay for the second year of the increase.

To read the joint statement from DODD and OACB click here

Appendix K Payments
Payments to residential service providers resulting from Ohio's Appendix K application to CMS were to be released September 18th. These payments were to be made to providers of HPC, OS/OC and Ohio Shared Living. The payments should reflect roughly 10% of billing claims made from March through July. Providers should have started receiving payments already. Providers who receive their PD/HPC payments directly from Morning Sun should have received this one-time payment from Morning Sun. If you did not receive payment, please let us know.

House Bill 606
Governor DeWine signed into law Ohio House Bill 606, protecting essential businesses and workers from civil liability resulting from the transmission of COVID-19.
To read more about HB 606, click here.

Dr. Laura Sorg Video
Dr. Laura Sorg, Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, created a video regarding staying healthy this flu season. Throughout her career, Dr. Laura has had a special focus on care throughout the life span, rural medicine and caring for those with developmental disabilities. Watch Dr. Laura's Medical Moment, The Flu and You, here

DODD Launches Comprehensive COVID-19 Guidance Webpage
A new webpage on the DODD website contains updated, reorganized department guidance and resources to help better guide and inform people with disabilities, their families, and the community at large on information related to COVID-19

County boards of DD agree to final, 90-day extension of Acuity C rate structure that ends on December 31
County boards of DD have conditionally agreed to support the current, universal Acuity C payment structure for providers of Adult Day and Vocational Habilitation (ADS/Voc Hab) services until December 31, 2020.

Indoor, in-person visits were able to resume at ICFs on Monday, 09/28/20, with mandatory precautions in place
Governor Mike DeWine and DODD Director Jeff Davis announced that indoor, in-person visits at intermediate care facilities (ICFs) were able resume as soon as Monday, September 28, with mandatory safeguards in place. These requirements are spelled out in a new public health order.
Outdoor visitation has been permitted at ICFs since early June. Now, indoor visitors will be permitted as well provided that the following safety measures are taken:

- Visitors must wear face masks unless a medical exception is noted;
- Visits must be scheduled in advance;
- Visits must occur at specified times and for specified lengths of time;
- Visitors must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms by ICF staff;
- Visitors must show identification and be entered into a visitor log maintained by ICF staff;
- Visitors must confirm that they have had no symptoms and no contact with infected people for 14 days leading up to the visit;
- To the extent that doing so is possible, indoor visits should take place in a designated space not used for other purposes that is
  - free of other residents
  - accessible without walking through living areas and
  - sanitized between visits;
- ICFs must provide hand sanitizer for visitors and residents;
- ICFs must have adequate PPE for visitors, residents, and staff;
- ICFs must limit the number of entrances and exits for visitors; and
- ICFs must encourage residents and visitors to have a contact-free visit, and residents must wash or sanitize their hands if contact occurs.
- ICF staff are also required to consider the extent of community spread in their counties before deciding whether indoor visits can be conducted safely. Visits cannot take place in a "distinct residential living area" of an ICF if a resident or staff member in that area is known to have the virus or is actively quarantining following confirmed or suspected exposure.

DODD is expected to release updated guidance on indoor ICF visitation soon. In addition to reinforcing the requirements outlined in the public health order, the guidance is expected to require each resident's person-centered planning team to assess the benefits and risks of indoor, in-person visits and determine whether they are advisable for the person before visits are scheduled.

**Latest DODD Guidance and Resources**

**Guidance**
- Behavioral Support Guidance for ICF Settings
- ICF Outings
- COVID-19 Risk/Benefit Discussion Guide for Activities Outside the Home or Facility

**Resources**
- Ohio Public Health Advisory System

**Renewal Certification**

DODD will be extending the certification date for any providers due for renewal during the next few months. Providers with an upcoming renewal should have received notification from DODD on their revised renewal date.

**Ohio Launches New Housing Locator Website**

Ohio has launched a new housing locator website that includes resources to identify rental housing, including subsidized housing. It further provides information about fair housing, landlord/tenant law, housing accessibility, healthy homes, lead-safe properties, homeownership opportunities, and housing for older adults.
**Service Monitoring**
Starting today, October 1, 2020 the Service and Support Administration Division will begin service monitoring as they had been prior to COVID-19. This may be done in person or virtually and will be discussed as a team. Please contact the Service Coordinator you work with if you have questions.

**DSP Appreciation Event**
On Tuesday, October 6th we will be hosting a Drive-In DSP Appreciation Event from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Warren C. Young Center. We will be serving dinner, passing out a favor, and holding our annual award ceremony. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org.

If you are in need of supplies, please email melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org.

If you need staff or have staff in need of work, please reach out to our Provider Development Coordinators at providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org.

If you need BCI/FBI background checks completed, the WCBDD is offering them by appointment only. Please email william.caplinger@warrencountydd.org to schedule an appointment.
