

IDD Division Meeting: Updates from ODP

Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens joined our Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Committee meeting this week and provided us with several updates.

The Deputy Secretary shared that the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is developing a plan for **Rate Enhancements for Community Participation Supports and Transportation Trip to provide some relief to providers for fixed costs**. She anticipates that they will be able to release more information very soon, but the plan is still under development. The intent is to enhance rates for the time period of **January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021**. She also asked providers to hold off on billing for January if it is at all possible. This would allow the plan to be implemented in the cleanest manner (without corrected billings). Because the plan is still in development, she was unable to provide any details on the rates and method for getting this relief to providers at this time. RCPA will share any further information as soon as it is available.

The Deputy Secretary's [presentation](#) covered several other topics, including:

- **Appendix K** changes allowing remote services and services in hospitals will remain in effect through June 30, 2021. ODP will assess needs and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance for continued flexibility beyond June 30, 2021.
- **COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan Prioritization**
Version: December 11, 2020
- **Phase 1A**
 - Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs): Residents and staff of community group homes and intermediate care facilities (ICFs)
 - Health-Care Personnel: All direct support professionals (DSPs) supporting individuals through face-to-face service provision outside of an ICF or 6400 setting are included in Phase 1A.
- **Phase 1B**
 - Individuals receiving home and community-based services
 - ODP home and community-based services
- **Phase 1A**
 - Sub-prioritization necessary due to availability
 - Skilled nursing facilities prioritized among LTCFs as they provide care to the most medically vulnerable residents.
 - After skilled nursing facilities have been vaccinated, the remaining LTCFs should be prioritized by licensure type based on factors related to COVID-19 infection risk.

- **Vaccine Distribution Update**
 - LTCFs: Community living arrangements (CLAs) and ICFs – Federal Pharmacy Partnership
 - ODP requested bulk entry
 - Do not have confirmation of inclusion or exclusion
 - Identifying alternative strategies
 - Healthcare Personnel – Non-residential DSPs
 - December 30, 2020 SoHOrder – 10 percent set aside by hospitals, health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and pharmacies for vaccination of Phase 1A non-hospital-affiliated health-care personnel; includes DSPs from non-residential settings
 - Provider should coordinate with vaccine provider from the listed contact information on the Department of Health’s (DOH’s) website
 - DSPs will need to provide proof of occupation
- **Regional Response Health Collaborative (RRHCP) Program**
 - CARES Act funded
 - Ended December 30, 2020
- **Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT)**
 - Starting December 31, 2020 and lasting through February 28, 2021
 - Available Support:
 - Call Centers
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Staffing Assistance
 - Testing Assistance

Douglas Trahey, Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator, provided us with the following resources regarding vaccine access for providers:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine and Distribution Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers](#)