

OMHSAS Provider/Advocate Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday, 2/16/21 from 3:00-4:00pm

Questions & Answers (Q&A):

- **Question:** The CDC said that there was no need to quarantine after vaccination within 90 days of getting the second vaccination shot. It is not known how well the vaccination works after 90 days. Does this apply to ALL staff even those who do not have direct contact with clients?
 - **Answer:** Here is the information directly from the PA Health Alert Network (HAN):
 - People who are vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to quarantine after an exposure to another person with COVID-19, if they meet ALL of the following criteria:
 - They are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
 - They are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series; AND
 - They have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.
 - These criteria can be applied to healthcare providers (HCPs) as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages but does **NOT** apply to inpatients or residents in healthcare settings.
 - Regardless of vaccination status, persons who exhibit new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 still need to isolate and be evaluated for COVID-19 testing.
 - Close contacts who have not received vaccine or who do not meet all of the above criteria must follow existing quarantine guidance.
 - DOH continues to recommend COVID-19 prevention measures such as masking, physical distancing, avoiding nonessential travel, and hand hygiene for all people regardless of vaccination status.
 - If you have questions about this guidance, please call your local health department or 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

- **Question:** Dr Adair, how were participants chosen to serve on the different 988 groups? ex. Advocacy, Advisory, etc. Are people in recovery a part of these groups?
 - **Answer:** The composition of the 988 groups or coalitions has not been fully determined. Vibrant, the organization which is providing the grant has strong recommendations as to the composition. Individuals who have lived experiences (mental health, substance use, and others) will have their voices heard as part of the implementation planning. The only group which is set, is the Operations Committee which will consist primarily of crisis call centers. We will share the list of participants as the committees are set.

- **Question:** How many hours is the CPS online training?
 - **Answer:** The Virtual CPS Training through Copeland will include eighteen 2.5-hour sessions spaced over 5 weeks.
 - [Additional information can be found at this link](#) or by contacting: Katie Wilson, Copeland Center Director of Operations, at (802) 451-0145 or training@copelandcenter.com

- **Question:** We know staff in child residential [programs] are under 1A. What is the Department doing to support the staff in those facilities getting the vaccine, like what is being done in the long-term care facilities?
 - **Answer:** Currently, both the CDC and DOH have determined that those living in LTCFs are the most vulnerable and thus staff working in those facilities have been prioritized. Youth have not been deemed amongst the most vulnerable thus those facilities fall into phase 1B. We realize that many of the staff working in those environments may be vulnerable themselves and we have successfully argued to have the staff included in 1A. However, they will need to work with vaccine providers to obtain the vaccine.

- **Question:** Do we know when Gov. Wolf's Disaster Declaration officially ends?
 - **Answer:** Governor Wolf renewed the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the fourth time on February 19, 2021. The Proclamation is effective for a 90-day period unless sooner rescinded or extended by official action of the Governor.

- **Question:** Will you be not welcomed as an employee if you do not get COVID-19 vaccine?
 - **Answer:** OMHSAS cannot advise on employment rules established by individual employers.

- **Question:** With the CPS virtual training; is there an additional cost for the 5-day hands on within the first year?
 - **Answer:** For the currently approved Copeland Center Virtual Training, the cost of the virtual training is \$1,125. There will be a separate charge for the 5-day in person portion of \$650. While the other training vendors proposals are still in approval process with PCB, they are anticipated to have a similar payment structure.

- **Question:** See PA Health Alert Network (HAN) 551 for COVID quarantine updates.
 - **Answer:** [Here is a link to PA HAN 551](#)

- **Question:** I have a question related to IBHS and ABA. Who would be the best person to assist with answering billing code questions?
 - **Answer:** Please e-mail RA-PWIBHS@pa.gov with all of your IBHS and ABA@pa.gov for your ABA related questions.
 - [Here is a link to the updated IBHS FAQ](#)

- **Question:** Will the results of the telehealth survey be shared with us?
 - **Answer:** [Here is a link to the OMHSAS Behavioral Health Telehealth Survey on the OMHSAS website.](#)

- **Question:** At what point will licensed CRRs receive the vaccine through the Retail Partnership with Rite Aid?
 - **Answer:** The program was established for facilities covered under phase 1A. We will reassess when the state moves to 1B.

- **Question:** Can OMHSAS help to advocate for DOH to relax the requirement to quarantine for staff who are fully vaccinated? It is killing our staffing requirements, not allowing staff to take care of personal needs without missing work for an additional 2 weeks and does not help to provide incentive to receive vaccination. It is not reasonable that a person vaccinated does not need to quarantine if exposed but still needs to quarantine if they cross state lines.
 - **Answer:** [DOH has recently updated its guidance for fully vaccinated individuals. Here is a link to the press released from DOH.](#)
 - [Governor Wolf has recently revised the mitigation order on gatherings and lifted the out-of-state travel restrictions.](#)

- **Question:** What about vaccines for PRTF children's residential, are they included in the three mentioned.
 - **Answer:** Staff working at a PRTF are eligible in tier 1A.

- **Question:** Any update on the release of the telehealth bulletin?
 - **Answer:** The telehealth bulletin is moving through the DHS review process.

- **Question:** Are Children PRTF eligible for the DHS Rite Aid Pharmacy Partnership?
 - **Answer:** At this point in time, the PRTFs are not eligible for this program.

- **Question:** Since there is some newly intended funding from your Office, like for First Episode Psychosis initiation, where will reductions be made to offset those increases? Will they be an overall, albeit minimal, reduction to counties base funding, or not?
 - **Answer:** The First Episode Psychosis program is supported using Community Mental Health Block Grant funds from the federal government. CMHSBG funding is not affected by level funding of state dollars. The federal allocation was increased for the CMHSBG set asides (both FEP and the new Crisis set aside) meaning there was no reduction in other programs funded through CMHSBG as a result of the set asides.

- **Question:** Will there be a virtual CPS Supervisor training as well?
 - **Answer:** The CPS Supervisor Training is available virtually.
 - The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition maintains a list of current trainings from all vendors here:
<https://papersupportcoalition.org/education/upcoming-supervisors-trainings/>

- **Question:** If a provider's license has expired and [considering] the [licensing] backlog what advice [should we] give to them?
 - **Answer:** Providers should contact their licensing representative or applicable OMHSAS Regional Office if they have any questions or concerns about their license including the scheduling of inspections.
 - **Central Field Office:** 717-705-8395; **Northeast Field Office:** 570-963-4335 **Southeast Field Office:** 610-313-5844; **Southwest Field Office:** 412-565-5226

- **Question:** Have all of the IBHS providers completed their licensing visits and been licensed?
 - **Answer:** We have completed inspections of the vast majority of providers that submitted an application to be licensed as an IBHS provider. We continue to work with some providers who more recently submitted applications and we expect this to continue as it does for all licensed program types as new providers seek licensure for this new service.

- **Question:** Is there an update on the resource and referral tool/Aunt Bertha on the rollout/implementation, training, etc?
 - **Answer:** The Resource & Referral Tool is in the early stages of implementation. Once the vendor has built the tool, more information and training will be provided to users.
 - The Department of Human Services' Secretary's Office is hosting a series of upcoming webinars on the RISE Tool:
 - **Lehigh/Capital Zone** - Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton, Perry and York counties – **March 12, 2021 – 10:00AM EST**
 - Please register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6812541473384862735>
 - **Southeast Zone** - Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties - **March 16, 2021 – 1:00PM EST**
 - Please register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5285032849869277455>
 - **Southwest Zone** - Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Green, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties - **March 19, 2021 – 10:00AM EST**
 - Please register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4742881258399010831>
 - **New West Zone** - Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango and Warren counties - **March 23, 2021 – 10:00AM EST**
 - Please register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2176859713193096463>
 - **New East Zone** - Bradford, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne and Wyoming counties - **March 30, 2021 – 10:00AM EST**
 - Please register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8320073070135742991>