

1 of 29.

Q. Is there a response and/or evacuation plan when residential staff are depleted due to this virus? It could happen quickly.

R. We are reaching out to members to see if anyone is willing to share their response plans should staffing availability require a large-scale response. Will post share compiled responses when available.

2 of 29.

Q. This question is for Rick, if possible, regarding the Courts. Has there been any discussion about youth that are on board extensions and how that will play out once all hearings reconvene?

Requested follow up clarification: Thank you for following up as I was experiencing technical difficulties earlier. My question relates to youth who are in care past the age of 18, via Fostering Connections Act and Act 91.

Since extension of care is accomplished through court order, I was wondering if there has been any discussion in the courts regarding how these cases will be handled once the courts reconvene. Can counties recommend discharging young adults from care who have not been able to fulfill the requirements of Act 91(e.g., working, training, enrolled in a secondary or vocational program) due to Covid-19 or will these requirements be waived or extended?

R. Forwarded question to Rick Steele. Will also research for additional follow up. Will share responses as they are available.

Response from Brian Bornman PCYA ED. As the requirements for kids to remain in care are set out by statute, they can't really be waived; however, OCYF is encouraging counties to be as flexible as possible in allowing older youth to remain in care.

3 of 29.

Q. test

4 of 29.

Q. Do we have a plan for quarantine?

R. No state guidance as of this point. Decisions about local practice are often made County by County. In terms of residential care, here is a link that may be helpful.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>

5 of 29.

Q. There is a bill that we got from the IU that non-public entities will be able to bill with students from March 13. So any Private academic schools hopefully will be able to bill.

R. I believe this is in reference to amendments added to [SB 751](#) we will add this to our tracking list to follow its progression. If other legislation is introduced, that we should monitor, please forward the bill number.

Thanks

6 of 29.

Q technology question.

7 of 29.

Q technology question

8 of 29.

Q. I was not able to unmute: But in reference to a family who does not have wifi. Our agency had to drive to the home and view the family and the child from the drive way.

9 of 29.

Q technology question

10 of 29.

Q technology question

11 of 29.

Q Mid-Atlantic Youth Services is licensed as a private academic school by PDE and we employ our teachers. We have contingency plans developed in the event teachers are out of work.

12 of 29.

Q. We are still conducting educational programming with our teachers

R. Here is information shared by PaTTAN.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/AnswersToFAQs.aspx> (Specifically #17)

Also, NASP released this document, which was helpful as well: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/usdoe-guidance-for-idea-service-delivery-faq-for-school-psychologists>, specifically:

How should IEP meetings and special education evaluations be conducted during long-term school closures due to COVID-19?

- Local agencies are encouraged to work with parents to reach mutually agreeable extensions of timelines, as appropriate.
- Evaluations that require in-person testing or observations may be postponed until school reopens. If the evaluation or reevaluation does not require in-person testing or observation, it may be completed while school is closed, with parent consent. (See page 3, <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-coronavirus-fact-sheet.pdf>)
- IEP teams are not required to meet in person while schools are closed. LEAs and parents are encouraged to think creatively about how to conduct video or teleconference IEP meetings while schools are closed.
- Typically, IFSPs must be completed within 45 days of the lead agency receiving a referral. However, the timeline may not apply if the family is unavailable due to “exceptional family circumstances that are documented”; the COVID-19 pandemic could be considered an exceptional family circumstance.
- Initial evaluations must be completed within 60 days (or alternate state-established timeline) of parental consent. There are no specific timelines for when an eligibility determination must be made; however, an IEP must be developed in accordance with IDEA.
- When appropriate, reevaluations may be conducted through a review of existing evaluation data, and this review can occur without a meeting and without parental consent, unless it is determined additional assessments are needed.

13 of 29.

Q yes

14 of 29.

Q

Will this PowerPoint be distributed to participants?

R. Yes

15 of 29.

Q How are foster care agencies and/or group homes addressing situations in which parents or caregivers do not have WIFI or cell phones to ensure that children and youth are having regular contact with their parents/caregivers.

R. At this point it appears that the state is looking for documentation of reasonable efforts to engage family members.

Providers should reach out to County referral sources to seek assistance and request additional funds/resources be made available to families to allow them access to technologies and hardware for engagement. There may also be opportunities to reach out to other funders/foundations that may be available to help families in this time of crisis.

16 of 29.

Q.technology question

17 of 29.

Q We have utilized our Virtual Family visitation room that uses the Blue Jeans application. We are also working to download Zoom on Therapists' computers since OMHSAS has waived HIPPA requirements around some of these applications.

18-20 Commentary on presentation.

20 of 29.

Q. Did you answer the question about education? my volume was off and I missed part of the conversation.

R. See above and also reference resources on PowerPoint.

I have been connecting with Roni Russell from PaTTAN for Education related questions.

Roni J. Russell, M.Ed.

Education Consultant

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21 of 29.

Q What are facilities doing about education?

R. See above

22 of 29.

Q Can you send the list of free internet service providers via email

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance released a list of free and low-cost internet resources, at: <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>

Please consider sharing and promoting United Way of Pennsylvania's nonprofit COVID-19 resource hub. UWP is curating up to date information everyday, and attempting to capture all policies and directives that impact the delivery of basic needs services by the nonprofit sector in the COVID-19 crisis. The hub is available here: <https://www.uwp.org/member/member-information/knowledge-cafe/coronavirus-covid-19-hub/>.

Thanks,
Kristen

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Lemoyne, PA 17043
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Cell (717) 448-1663
krotz@uwp.org

23 of 29.

Q. Will be sending this PowerPoint to us?

R. Yes

24 of 29.

Q We have to remember that some programs are regulated by other agencies besides OCYF and those agencies may not support us waiving SCM or CPR training. Dept of Health is one example. Do we know where they stand?

R. see below

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Behavioral HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (BH-MCOs), Fee-For-Service (FFS) Providers, and County Mental Health Authorities – Statewide

FROM: Kristen Houser Deputy Secretary Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

RE: COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

DATE: March 25, 2020

2. Question: Is the Department of Human Services (DHS)/OMHSAS considering waiving regulations given the disaster emergency declaration declared by the Governor?

OMHSAS Response: Yes. OMHSAS is reviewing regulations and policies to determine which regulations, if any, need to be suspended based on the needs of our stakeholders. Further guidance will follow on specific regulatory suspensions

5. Question: What is the appropriate response if individuals in a residential service need to be isolated or quarantined?

OMHSAS Response: Counties should have contingency plans in place for when there is an emergency for residential services. Providers of residential services should also have emergency plans in place, in coordination with the counties where they are located. Providers of residential services should

implement their emergency plans. Expanded telehealth services as outlined in the “OMHSAS COVID-19 Telehealth Expansion” document can also be used to provide services to individuals in residential settings. For specific recommendations regarding requirements for isolation, consult the Pennsylvania Department of Health

(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>)

25 of 29.

Q Can we get a waiver for transcripts. Some schools are shut down and getting a copy has been a problem.

R. Recommendation is to document reasonable efforts to collect required documentation and justifications when required documentation is not made available.

26 of 29.

Q. Does this include school programs?

R. See Educational reference information above.

27 of 29.

Q. So, we need to just encourage the fingerprint locations become "life-sustaining" businesses

R. DHS is in communications with the Governor’s office and the Federal agencies to seek a solutions. We hope to receive guidance soon.

28 of 29.

Q. Does video visitation count as visitation during this time.

R.

29 of 29.

Q what about FBI finger printing for resource parents

Question asked by: deszeree@gmail.com

PPJS Open Forum Best Practices and Response to COVID 19

Open Q&A

Q. How are foster care agencies and/or group homes addressing situations in which parents or caregivers do not have WIFI or cell phones to ensure that children and youth are having regular contact with their parents/caregivers.

R. Agencies are requested to document reasonable and best efforts to engage families and stakeholders. Also encouraged to document when those efforts fail. Agencies are using teleconferencing, outside distanced interaction (maintaining 6 feet distance), see above for additional information. One agency indicated that : We have utilized our Virtual Family visitation room that uses the Blue Jeans application. We are also working to download Zoom on Therapists' computers since OMHSAS has waived HIPPA requirements around some of these applications.

Q. From R Steele, requesting updates from providers on whether they have restricted intakes.

R. will reach out to members and agencies to collect updates on intake restrictions.