Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services During COVID-19

Presentation to Senate Human Services Committee

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Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) Response

Priorities:
• Keeping people with I/DD safe and healthy
• Supporting families and those providing services to people with I/DD
Data and Outcomes

Studies on adverse outcomes for people with I/DD highlight the need to act quickly

- New York: residents with I/DD in group homes 5.34 times more likely than the general population to develop COVID-19 and 4.86 times more likely to die from it.
- Lerner Center study: death rates from pneumonia from COVID-19 are between 2.2-5.8 times higher among individuals with I/DD than among those without.
- D.C.: Rate of COVID infection among people in DD services seven times higher than general population.
ODDS Response

ODDS issued first guidance related to COVID-19 on March 3, 2020

- Website
- Resources for case managers, providers, individuals and families
I/DD Service System: Response

Guidance and policies issued for:

• In-home services and Supported Living: issued guidance on protective measures
• 24-hour group homes and I/DD foster homes: visitor restrictions, requirements for face coverings
• Employment/Day Support Activities: Closed congregate facility services
• Case Management: remote services
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Direct Support Professionals – Work with agency/AFH which works with local Public Health
- Personal Support Workers – Through OHCC process
- Individuals in services – Connect with case manager
Supports for Individuals, Families

COVID-19 resources for individuals and families include:

• Medical Rights Fact Sheet
• Stipends for parents
• Animated videos for education and training
• Expanded family supports program
Medical Rights

• ODDS Medical Rights Fact Sheet on ODDS COVID-19 web page

• OHA Non-Discrimination Guidance

• OHA Visitation Guidance
Current Situation: Phase 1

- Visitor restrictions and other precautions still in place

- Individuals with I/DD continue to take precautions

- Remote services still in place, with face-to-face only allowed for case managers to ensure health and safety
Current Situation as of May 28

COVID-19 cases in residential settings total since March 2020:

**Individuals:**
- 3 in adult foster homes
- 6 in group homes
- 8 in in-home services

**Provider staff:**
- 1 in child foster home
- 4 in adult foster homes
- 12 in group homes
- 7 in in-home services
Contact tracing and Notifications

- Local Public Health Authorities are responsible for contact tracing
- ODDS requires provider agencies to notify anyone who has come within close contact of a person with COVID-19
  - Sample notification letters available
- Personal Support Workers are required to notify ODDS
  - ODDS coordinates notification
Looking Ahead

• Continue issuing guidance to ensure people with I/DD are safe and healthy

• Learn from this experience and use ‘lessons learned’ to help improve services and supports in future

• Creative options for communicating with people with I/DD and their families

Resource Guide on Creative Problem-Solving

ODDS is collecting information from providers and case management entities on creative ways they are supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This ranges from everything from supporting people to stay connected with family and friends to helping people understand precautions for staying safe.

Here are some ideas provided directly from Community Developmental Disabilities Programs, Brokerages, providers, family members and ODDS staff.

From families

• Instead of dining at his favorite restaurants, we order to-go, pick up or delivery.
• Instead of going to the grocery store, we are teaching him to use Instacart grocery delivery service.
• Instead of going to the movie theater, we are planning home movie showings.

• For the things we can’t find an alternate activity for, we added them to a “Coming Soon Fall 2020” activity list to help our son look forward to the future.
• Staying connected to our son when he is 2.5 hours away from us has been a challenge for our family over this past year. We talk to him via FaceTime daily (sometimes several times a day), text during the day, call each other, and do our best to make sure we are a part of his daily life as much as possible. When COVID-19 hit, we contacted all our friends and family members on Facebook and let them know our son would love to hear from them. Several immediately stepped up, asking me for his mailing address and ideas of what to send. Soon I started getting excited calls from our boy, telling me all about the treasures he had received that day. There were cards, stickers, small toys, movies to share with his housemates, and treats. I often had to explain to him who the packages came from, and how they knew him. This opened the door for conversations we have never had with our son before and expanded his world.
• We continue to have one Personal Support Worker who works weekdays, and two PSWs who alternate evenings that continue to
Questions?
ODDS COVID Web Page:

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/oregonDHS.IDD

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