



LIFE. YOUR WAY.

TRANSCRIPT

Community Forum: COVID-19

March 27, 2020 - 10:30 am – 11:30 am via WebEx

1

00:00:01.074 --> 00:00:11.994 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“And we're going to then see what we can do to post these recordings on our website, or somehow make these recordings public. So that people who can't participate will have access to the information that we shared today.”

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00:00:14.189 --> 00:00:27.234

“We will be doing these calls at the same time every week for the foreseeable future. And so people will get an invitation so that you can join us again next week. Because this is our first call. We got a whole bunch of questions.”

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00:00:27.625 --> 00:00:31.285

“So, what I'd like to do is just jump right into those questions now.”

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00:00:31.890 --> 00:00:43.465

“And just so that you're aware, in the room with me, sitting some distance apart so that we maintain appropriate social distance here, are Kirk Dobson our Deputy for Quality Assurance.”

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00:00:43.914 --> 00:00:57.024

“Crystal Thomas, our Program Manager for the State Office Policy Planning and Innovation. Winslow woodland, the Deputy for DDA, and we have a number of staff online as well.”

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00:00:57.085 --> 00:01:00.085

“And as I said, we have a total of a hundred, eight people online.”

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00:01:00.085 --> 00:01:13.584

“So, why don't we go ahead and get started. Crystal's going to read through all the questions and I will answer them, to the extent I can, and I'll call on my staff to help in circumstances where we need that to the extent

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00:01:13.584 --> 00:01:24.204

we're able to get through all these questions ,we may be able to take additional questions of people have them. They could be typing them in the chat. The chat bar over there down at the bottom.”

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00:01:24.204 --> 00:01:37.825

“You see a little chat bubble, type in there, and we will get to those questions at the end.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Alright everyone, first question is, how will this affect those on the waiting list?”

10 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:01:39.174 --> 00:01:41.305

“So, DDS has no waiting list.

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00:01:41.400 --> 00:01:44.694

And so therefore, you know, and we don't anticipate having a waiting list.

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00:01:47.159 --> 00:01:52.435

None of what's happening now, has any effect on any waiting list because fortunately in the district, we've never had one.”

13 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:01:54.265 --> 00:01:57.685

“Son cannot talk. Speech therapist did not come last week.

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00:01:58.409 --> 00:02:12.930

They come out anyway. Will services continue in person or virtual or suspend? Family doesn't have app that therapists suggest using this time.”

15 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:02:12.925 --> 00:02:16.914

“Okay, so any questions that anyone has regarding their services.

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00:02:17.610 --> 00:02:25.224

You should call your service coordinator. All of our service coordinators are working full time. They're all Teleworking, but they are all available, full time.

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00:02:25.495 --> 00:02:34.164

So when you have this kind of question, please reach out to your service coordinator. There should be a discussion with any allied health professional.

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00:02:34.375 --> 00:02:48.025

That's providing services about their ability to provide those services remotely a lot's been done in the district and across the country to relax rules that will allow people, to the extent they can to provide those services remotely.

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00:02:48.294 --> 00:02:51.564

There should be a discussion with the team about

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00:02:52.590 --> 00:03:00.294

If they can't be done that way about whether it's better to delay the service or a discussion also with the service provider about how those things can be handled."

21~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:03:02.155 --> 00:03:11.485

"What, if you disagree with your DSP or employer about staying inside and not going out to the community or working?"

22 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:03:12.240 --> 00:03:22.194

"So as I read through all the questions that we've got, what occurred to me is that I want to repeat several times in this conversation today, the guidance that all of us have gotten.

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00:03:23.039 --> 00:03:31.254

From public health people from the CDC from DC health guidance that they've given us about how we can stay healthy.

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00:03:32.009 --> 00:03:36.175

Which includes limiting the number of people that we have contact with,

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00:03:37.229 --> 00:03:46.854

Making sure that if you cough or sneeze, that you do it into a tissue, throw that tissue away if you don't have a tissue that you do it into your sleeve.

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00:03:48.745 --> 00:03:59.935

Keeping a distance between you and other people. So that means about six feet, which means if you hold at your arms and the other person holds out to your arms, your fingers don't touch.

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00:04:00.930 --> 00:04:05.995

We need to be from each other because this is a virus that passes from one person to another.

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00:04:07.169 --> 00:04:10.705

But it can only go so far, so it's important to keep that distance.

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00:04:11.099 --> 00:04:26.004

And so the reason that DC and Maryland fact have ordered a number of businesses to close and have asked people to stay home to the extent that they can it so that we can limit the number of people

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00:04:26.004 --> 00:04:27.654

that we have contact with.

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00:04:31.439 --> 00:04:38.634

Is it okay to go outside? That's a conversation that you and your DSP and your team to have.

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00:04:39.449 --> 00:04:48.745

How do you spend your time while you are stuck at home? One of the things that the mayor has said, when she's given people advices.

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00:04:49.529 --> 00:05:02.125

Family wants to go out for a walk. That's great. If the people you live with together, want to go out. What's important is that you not be going to places we getting together with other people. So the ideal is for, you to

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00:05:03.660 --> 00:05:12.175

Have contact with a few people as possible, lastly, that we all pay attention to our health pay attention to how we're feeling.

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00:05:12.415 --> 00:05:22.194

If you have a cough, shortness of breath or notice that you might have a fever important to let someone know that, and talk to a doctor about what you should do."

36 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:05:23.939 --> 00:05:29.814

"What if my DSP is sick, and not available to take me to the doctor?"

37 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:05:31.379 --> 00:05:43.495

"So, all providers should make sure that that staff are in place. If the DSP isn't available. Another person would be available. Also. It's really important to emphasize. We keep talking to people about this.

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00:05:44.040 --> 00:05:53.574

If you have a doctor's appointment, or if you are sick and feel, you need to go to the doctor you should be calling their office in advance about whether this is the right time to go in."

39 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:05:55.920 --> 00:06:00.175

"What are ways to check in with my job site about the operating status if I don't use the computer?"

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00:06:01.319 --> 00:06:04.855

Or email?"

41 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:06:06.509 --> 00:06:11.605

"Two ways, one is by phone. And secondly, if you have a job coach, or any staff that helps you with work to ask them if they can check it.

42 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:06:14.550 --> 00:06:24.954

"Can DDS help me with Medicaid benefit questions during this time?"

43 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:06:26.245 --> 00:06:29.214

"So, one thing that you should be aware of is that between March first and May thirty-first. The expiration, any Medicaid that expired between those three months.

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00:06:31.500 --> 00:06:34.884

The expiration date has been extended, but DDS can assist with those questions.

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00:06:37.350 --> 00:06:40.014

So you should call your service coordinator with any of your questions about your Medicaid."

46 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:06:41.670 --> 00:06:45.475

"Any phone numbers we should know just in case a service coordinator is Unavailable?"

47 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:06:47.370 --> 00:06:56.875

So, what should be happening and we, is that the service coordinators supervisors, telephone number is on their voicemail.

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00:06:57.689 --> 00:07:00.685

So, if you call your service coordinator and they're unavailable

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00:07:01.439 --> 00:07:06.654

Then you can call their supervisor, whose numbers should be on that voicemail.

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00:07:07.435 --> 00:07:20.425

If there, you can also always call customer service at four, four, two, eight, six, eight, six during business hours. You can also call Winslow woodland.

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00:07:20.425 --> 00:07:25.225

The deputy at two, zero, two, seven, three, zero, one, six, one, eight.

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00:07:26.250 --> 00:07:32.125

During business hours. We have a phone number on our website after business hours that people can call.

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00:07:33.569 --> 00:07:40.014

The easiest number to remember after business hours if you need to get in touch with someone is three, one, one.

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00:07:41.459 --> 00:07:48.144

And tell them, you have a question regarding department on disability services, and they will put you in touch with our person on call.”

55 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:07:49.975 --> 00:07:51.865

The date for taxes to be filed was pushed back to July. Can I ask my service provider to help me pay them still in time for April?

56 ~ Director Andrew Reese:

00:07:56.279 --> 00:08:05.545

“Absolutely and especially for those people who are getting a refund for people who owe money very helpful to wait until July.

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00:08:06.420 --> 00:08:11.935

For people who are getting a refund you would want to file as soon as possible also with the funds

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00:08:13.769 --> 00:08:18.235

That are about to come from the., there were funds that were approved by the Senate.

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00:08:18.990 --> 00:08:21.805

Hopefully they will be approved by the house. People who have

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00:08:22.500 --> 00:08:30.595

been paying taxes may be getting a check from the government. Fastest way to get that check is direct deposit. So, people who are filing taxes who can put their.

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00:08:32.940 --> 00:08:37.945

Bank account number when they file their taxes, will get that check from the government most quickly.”

62 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:08:40.169 --> 00:08:44.695

“Do I still have to pay my rent on time?”

63 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:08:45.774 --> 00:08:56.934

Yes! Is the simple answer. Let me just say, there are restrictions right now on eviction however, rent is still do every month.

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00:08:58.289 --> 00:09:04.945

So just the fact that you couldn't be evicted right now, to the extent, you're able to pay your rent and not get further and further behind.

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00:09:05.700 --> 00:09:11.394

Once this ends all that rent will be do, and the limitation on evictions will end as well.

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00:09:12.690 --> 00:09:15.684

So to the extent you're unable to pay you really need to be talking with.

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00:09:19.169 --> 00:09:23.034

Your service coordinator about the difficulty that you're having so that so that you all can brainstorm about how to address it.

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00:09:25.049 --> 00:09:29.304

Rather than relying on the fact that people can't be evicted for the short period of time.”

69 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:09:30.809 --> 00:09:34.134

”My ID expired during this time. Is it?”

70 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:09:35.879 --> 00:09:48.985

“So in DC, the DMV has extended the expiration date for all documents that expire between March one through April twenty eight and those are good until May fifteenth.

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00:09:48.985 --> 00:09:51.654

so,if it expired right now, you should be good up until May.”

72 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:09:55.705 --> 00:09:59.875

“What compliance Protocol policies directives or guidance has DDS provided to their providers for the protection of facility staff like group home

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00:10:04.200 --> 00:10:10.705

Direct support staff, community programs, etc. to ensure that not only facility residents are protected but staff family too, because these staff members return home daily from work to interact with families. Some of who have elderly and children.”

74 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:10:21.539 --> 00:10:31.014

So there are two websites that people are to be checking. One is [coronavirusdc.dc.gov.](https://coronavirusdc.dc.gov), which is all of the latest

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00:10:32.700 --> 00:10:45.475

Guidance from DC health, and from the district government regarding a corona virus, and the district's response to it and secondly, at DSS.dc.gov Right up at the top.

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00:10:46.495 --> 00:10:56.695

It says covid-19. I'm just looking it up right now. So, I can tell you that there's a long tin box at the top that gives you

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00:10:59.190 --> 00:11:03.534

updates, you can click there and you will.

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00:11:04.350 --> 00:11:11.695

Get a link to all of the guidance that's been issued by the department on disability services, and I would really encourage people to check back regularly.

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00:11:12.539 --> 00:11:16.644

As people know, the facts on the ground have been changing rapidly. SO its important to keep

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00:11:18.085 --> 00:11:21.445

Checking back to see the most current information.”

~ **Kirk Dobson:**”oh director, I just wanted to let everyone know that I’m typing the link into the chat box as well.”

81 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:11:30.059 --> 00:11:32.575

“What oversight and accountability measures has DDS and sister agencies put in place to ensure.

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00:11:34.620 --> 00:11:48.144

and enforce compliance by facility staff, considering that low level and less educated staff are usually where there is the risk for greater negligent, but also exploitation by providers who prefer to save money at the expense of staff and residence needs.”

83 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:11:50.039 --> 00:11:57.294

“So I just want to say first of all, I was told be careful.

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00:11:59.039 --> 00:12:03.205

Of your face, because there was quite a look on my face in response to that question.

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00:12:06.360 --> 00:12:11.394

First of all I would really like to appreciate all the hard work that I've seen our providers and their staff Do. As I've stated this thing is

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00:12:13.345 --> 00:12:18.235

Changing day to day and they are all working really hard to keep up with it. To continue to support.

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00:12:18.480 --> 00:12:29.784

the folks that we're all working together to try and support and so, you know, we really appreciate their dedication and hard work during this really difficult time.

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00:12:30.595 --> 00:12:33.865

We do have comprehensive training protocols in place.

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00:12:35.184 --> 00:12:38.934

That assist DSPs to carry out their job responsibilities. We also have a weekly phone call with

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00:12:40.320 --> 00:12:51.355

Providers. We provide them the most up to date information, all of our staff well, over ninety percent of our staff or teller-working those who were not are right here.

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00:12:51.894 --> 00:12:56.215

All of our staff to continue to during this public health emergency,

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00:12:56.394 --> 00:13:06.985

and they're reaching out regularly to the providers to check up on people to check up on how the providers are doing with maintaining staffing what resources they have.

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00:13:07.225 --> 00:13:07.615

So

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00:13:09.210 --> 00:13:20.184

I think that we're doing a pretty good job, our staff as well as our provider agency staff, doing a really excellent job of responding to this really unique crisis."

95 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:13:21.625 --> 00:13:30.144

"What is the status of DDS claims examiners and other staff who helped make medical determinations on SSI and SSDI claim?"

96 ~ **Andrew Reese:**

00:13:31.794 --> 00:13:34.764

"So this is about Social Security claims, for people who

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00:13:35.904 --> 00:13:48.894

Aren't aware it's about people who've. So DDD, which is the disability determination division at DDS will continue processing all claims all DDD examiners and the medical

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00:13:49.559 --> 00:14:00.054

Staff that assist in making determinations are currently Teleworking. What's really helpful is that Social Security has been wanting to move to move to teleworking

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00:14:00.325 --> 00:14:11.304

And so they've been using the DC office as pilot to try and introduce teleworking. So, we've really had a much easier time with this transition in many other parts of the country.

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00:14:11.610 --> 00:14:20.485

So, in fact, at this point, we're starting to get some claims from other states because we're ahead of. We're at over a hundred percent in terms of where we need to be during the year in processing claims. So things continue to move on schedule."

101 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:14:28.259 --> 00:14:36.625

"Our claim is still being scheduled for consulting the examination. Are CE's that have been scheduled now canceled?"

102 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:14:39.205 --> 00:14:54.115

"So, that consultants are still currently being scheduled, and they're being performed by the provider and they have some protocols in place to ensure that those are done safely, you know, to the extent they can they would do this remotely.

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00:14:54.115 --> 00:15:06.595

But they also do see people in the office. We've been careful to go into the office where people are seeing to make sure that appropriate measures are put in place. So that people can maintain social distance while they do this.

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00:15:07.884 --> 00:15:09.144

What's really important is,

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00:15:09.205 --> 00:15:09.475

you know,

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00:15:09.475 --> 00:15:17.455

we have a recognition that this is really an essential service for people because the reality is,

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00:15:17.850 --> 00:15:21.475

Some people are waiting on this determination in order to get a social security,

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00:15:21.475 --> 00:15:23.154

disability check and so,

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00:15:23.154 --> 00:15:25.345

those at this time was still continuing,

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00:15:25.529 --> 00:15:27.595

depending on how things go that may change,

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00:15:27.595 --> 00:15:28.495
but at this time,

112
00:15:29.125 --> 00:15:30.654
all appointments that have been scheduled,

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00:15:30.654 --> 00:15:32.065
they have maintained them.”

114 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**
00:15:33.414 --> 00:15:43.524
What is the best way to submit evidence to the DDS? Is mail being picked up or held. So that P two, isn't piling up outside of the office?”

115 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**
00:15:46.644 --> 00:15:47.245
“P,I, I.

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00:15:50.815 --> 00:15:59.125
Yes, we have staff coming in everyday to bring in the mail. The mail is handled securely. So there's no concern about mailing.

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00:15:59.909 --> 00:16:04.644
Mail, US mail is the best way to submit things. It is also acceptable to submit things via fax.

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00:16:07.350 --> 00:16:10.914
And if I don't have the fax number in front of me.

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00:16:11.669 --> 00:16:23.664
If you have received anything from social security, requesting that you submit document, or from the disability determination division, requesting that you submit documents, they include a fax number in that request.

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00:16:24.419 --> 00:16:27.804
You can fax to that number and they will be received securely.”

121 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**
00:16:29.159 --> 00:16:37.705
“Are continuing disability reviews occurring and DHO hearing being held?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “So, at this time, all hearings are being postponed.

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00:16:39.330 --> 00:16:43.495

Until SSA lifts the restriction and the workloads can continue the continuing disability review continuances are only being completed.

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00:16:47.159 --> 00:16:53.845

And all other continuing disability work is halted as per instruction from the social security administration.”

124 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:16:55.674 --> 00:17:02.754

“Is the DDS prioritizing CAL, QDD, critical, and presumptive disability claims?”

125 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:17:03.960 --> 00:17:15.835

Yes, so those for people who don't know are the emergency sort of people who have a critical illness where it's essential that, that that that benefit the benefit be in place as quickly as possible.

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00:17:17.519 --> 00:17:21.505

Those are prioritized as they always are.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “How long is the quarantine going to be?”

127 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:17:24.450 --> 00:17:34.464

“So, first of all, what we currently have is not a quarantine. Some people may be quarantined may be asked to self-quarantine. If they have been in contact

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00:17:35.220 --> 00:17:38.575

With a person who has a diagnosis of covid-19.

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00:17:39.805 --> 00:17:46.285

Most people are being asked, all of us are being asked to the extent we can to stay at home.

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00:17:48.269 --> 00:18:00.954

The current order goes through April the twenty fourth. So, at this time, everyone is being asked it as I said earlier. What's most important? Right now is that covid-19 is a virus.

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00:18:01.440 --> 00:18:13.974

It passes from one person to another through either them coughing or Sneezing or sometimes when we talked that little bit of spit that comes out, that could transmit the virus from one person to another.

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00:18:14.279 --> 00:18:19.045

And that's why it's very important that we remain at least six feet away from other people.

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00:18:20.430 --> 00:18:27.654

Because any of those little things like a cough or a sneeze aren't going to travel more than six feet. And so that's also why it's important that we

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00:18:28.529 --> 00:18:35.035

Limit the number of people that we interact with so going out should be limited, although going out, being by yourself, walking around the block

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00:18:37.200 --> 00:18:47.904

Being in the sun, that's healthy and good just make sure that you do without going out meeting up with other people, because we want to limit the number of people that we engaged with."

136 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:18:49.170 --> 00:18:54.444

"We want to go out and go to church and have our freedom. What if we want to attend, and even online

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00:18:55.769 --> 00:18:59.214

But need help?

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** So if you want to attend online and need help you should talk to your provider

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00:19:02.335 --> 00:19:13.944

Or, if you're in a natural, if you're living at home, talk to your service coordinator, and see if there's some way that you could get some help with that. For folks, they have churches that do you online, to even reach out to the church to see how they can help.

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00:19:19.224 --> 00:19:20.724

I think it's particularly troubling that right now that

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00:19:22.259 --> 00:19:35.035

Church, which many people rely on as a source of support that they're also closed. And that goes back to what I was saying before, because we don't want people we want to interact with a few people as possible.

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00:19:35.400 --> 00:19:39.204

People may recall that the first cases that we've heard of in DC

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00:19:40.740 --> 00:19:53.964

were related to a pastor in a church who had a service and was interacting with and we learned later he had covid-19 and then gave it to other people,

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00:19:53.964 --> 00:19:56.640

because they had so many people together in one place.

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00:19:56.904 --> 00:20:05.964

So, right now, groups of ten or more, people should not be occurring and even when it's fewer than that number of people, we should be keeping at least six feet

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00:20:07.109 --> 00:20:21.775

Between us, and, as I said, that's about, sort of, you stand with your arms out and person has their arms out and your fingers don't touch. That's how far apart we always want to be from other people to keep ourselves healthy and to keep other people healthy."

146 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:20:22.950 --> 00:20:26.964

"Do you have any clue when corona virus is going to stop? Are we near the end?"

147 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:20:27.654 --> 00:20:30.805

I wish that I knew, I'll just reiterate.

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00:20:32.789 --> 00:20:45.775

, you can keep checking on Corona. C. O. R. O. N. A. V.I. R.U. S. dot D. C. dot. Gov.

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00:20:46.650 --> 00:20:55.525

There's daily updates on the status of Corona in DC. I also want to say, it just occurred to me as I keep repeating what we all need to be

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00:20:56.940 --> 00:21:05.664

Doing I didn't say washing your hands, wash your hands wash your hands, wash your hands. Because while other people cough on a service. If you touch that surface

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00:21:06.359 --> 00:21:09.444

and touch your face. That's how the virus can get in."

152 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:21:12.894 --> 00:21:20.394

"Is this a virus that is coming from the air or people?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "It comes from people. The problem is.

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00:21:21.029 --> 00:21:27.714

People could cough on a surface that you would then touch. So, for example, if you ride the metro

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00:21:29.069 --> 00:21:33.204

And you touch the handrail on the Metro and someone had just coughed into their hand and touched the hand rail,

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00:21:34.829 --> 00:21:47.575

There could be virus there and that's why touching your hand. That's okay. Your hands then touching your mouth your nose or your eyes. That's how you end up getting the virus wash your hands. The best thing is with soap and water,

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00:21:50.190 --> 00:21:59.125

Washing your hands regularly, if you are out and don't have access to soap and water, hopefully you have some hand sanitizer."

157 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:22:01.950 --> 00:22:14.519

"If I have allergies and I sneeze, will I spread this to anyone else? Some people are panicking with allergies."

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "You know, that concern right now is bad.

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00:22:14.545 --> 00:22:18.984

We're about to really enter allergy season. Some of us are very aware of that.

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00:22:20.099 --> 00:22:24.265

And I know that all of us, when we hear a person around us cough or sneeze.

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00:22:24.924 --> 00:22:28.825

We get a little nervous. You can only give someone Corona virus is you

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00:22:29.730 --> 00:22:39.234

Have corona virus, but at the same time, the same rule applies whether you have it or not when you cough or sneeze if you have access to a

162

00:22:41.309 --> 00:22:47.694

tissue, you should do it in the tissue. If not, you should do it into your sleeve. If you cough or sneeze in a tissue, throw it away immediately.

163

00:22:48.900 --> 00:23:01.615

Make sure and wash your hands regularly.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “How many nurses do we have in the field? Are services continuing? Are more nurses being brought in?”

~ **Winslow Woodland:** “So the answer to that question.

164

00:23:02.549 --> 00:23:10.555

With regard to DDA providers, we are not bringing in more new nurses. We do have.

165

00:23:11.309 --> 00:23:14.845

Over, let me give you an exact number.

166

00:23:16.170 --> 00:23:21.174

That we have in the field today, is well over two hundred.

167

00:23:22.404 --> 00:23:30.625

And that is between state providers and residential provides.

168

00:23:34.974 --> 00:23:46.914

So, currently we have, I'm sorry, one hundred and forty five registered nurses in one hundred and eighty seven LPNs.

169

00:23:48.505 --> 00:23:55.015

For total of three hundred and thirty two and, as I said, that is residential and day providers.

170

00:23:57.329 --> 00:24:06.775

And those who were working and day programs that are not own, not currently active, should be eligible to work, or are eligible to work in residential facilities."

171 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:24:09.059 --> 00:24:16.345

Is there an increase in behavior concerns related to people feeling isolated? How can people still have some type of socialization?

172 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:24:18.599 --> 00:24:27.984

"So, we haven't actually seen an increase in people having difficult behaviors. I just know anecdotally talking from people. I know.

173

00:24:28.529 --> 00:24:31.855

Everyone I know who is staying in and doing as they've been told

174

00:24:33.569 --> 00:24:38.694

By the Mayor, or if they live in other states by their governor, that they're kind of climbing the walls right now and

175

00:24:39.960 --> 00:24:51.174

Figuring out, how do we get through this and, you know how to reduce the anxiety. One when people stay home, they're listening to the news sometimes all day and just getting more and more nervous about it.

176

00:24:53.454 --> 00:25:02.065

I think that these are really important conversations to have within each of your homes, given the limit on. We can't go out and see other people

177

00:25:02.970 --> 00:25:07.194

What can we do together that doesn't involve us getting together with other people.

178

00:25:08.424 --> 00:25:15.954

You know, what can we do in small groups of people where we can make sure that we maintain a distance from them? It's really important to come up with

179

00:25:16.680 --> 00:25:20.125

Plans about how to spend your day, how to continue to

180

00:25:21.089 --> 00:25:30.775

Do things, you know, that that we enjoy so that to the extent you can that life can go on.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “can you encourage the Mayor to sign the DSP

181

00:25:32.130 --> 00:25:35.815

Wage race bill during this crisis?”

182 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:25:36.900 --> 00:25:45.894

So, you know, we're gonna defer to the mayor's office of that decision. She makes on this, that that wage bill would be something that would go not only during the crisis, but way beyond.

183

00:25:50.424 --> 00:25:52.855

The reality is, we are in the middle of

184

00:25:54.505 --> 00:25:59.035

We should have an update later today on exactly when it's being submitted, we are doing

185

00:26:00.115 --> 00:26:10.494

Filing an appendix K, which is a change to our waiver with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services so that we can look during the public health crisis

186

00:26:11.130 --> 00:26:16.765

There may be some changes that can be made regarding wages addressed in there. We're working that out with DHCF now.”

187 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:26:19.740 --> 00:26:28.944

“When can I get back to work? I need to do something.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “ I fully understand that sentiment. And it really depends.

188

00:26:28.944 --> 00:26:37.315

It depends in part on the kind of work you do. For people who work, for example, at a grocery store, they could still be working.

189

00:26:39.180 --> 00:26:46.944

You know, because grocery stores are considered essential services. There are a number of different kinds of work where people can continue to work.

190

00:26:47.694 --> 00:26:55.914

Unfortunately, it really depends on the kind of work that you have when your employer might be able to start bringing people back on.

191

00:26:56.190 --> 00:27:09.984

So, it depends on, you know, where we go in terms of people getting covid-19, because depending on how many people have it and what the spread from one person to another looks like, that's going to

192

00:27:11.309 --> 00:27:15.115

Determine sort of how long they need to keep measures in place when were really working hard

193

00:27:16.619 --> 00:27:20.815

to limit our contacts with other people. So unfortunately there's not really

194

00:27:22.230 --> 00:27:29.904

An answer to that yet, all I can say is refer back to the prior question. Come up with the folks close to you about ways that you can spend your time currently

195

00:27:32.454 --> 00:27:36.654

to reduce stress and to really, you know.

196

00:27:37.710 --> 00:27:41.845

Make the best of this time when you're stuck at home or at the very least

197

00:27:43.140 --> 00:27:46.494

In your neighborhood. I, because I do still have to come into the office because our office is still open for emergencies,

198

00:27:50.700 --> 00:27:55.075

On my way home I see far more people taking walks being in the park

199

00:27:56.279 --> 00:28:01.464

As long as I said, you're keeping social distance from people, you can still get out and get so fresh air."

200 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:28:04.494 --> 00:28:06.805

“So, the next is a statement made by our

201

00:28:08.940 --> 00:28:15.384

Fearless leader from project action Ricardo, wanted people to know, and understand that they are not in trouble

202

00:28:16.974 --> 00:28:19.765

And that staying home is not because of their behavior.”

203 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:28:21.954 --> 00:28:26.634

“And thank you for that statement, Ricardo, because it really it, it is a sacrifice that everyone is being asked to take.

204

00:28:30.420 --> 00:28:38.244

And its one that people are taking taking in order to protect themselves and the whole community.

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “If people cannot reach their provider

205

00:28:39.265 --> 00:28:46.765

Should they call nine one one?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “No, I, if the house is on fire yes if there's a medical emergency, yes.

206

00:28:48.865 --> 00:28:51.984

Other than that, your first of all ,your provider should give you an alternate

207

00:28:54.029 --> 00:29:02.785

Number, like, if you have a DSP who usually comes, and you can't reach them, you should have another from your provider that you can call.

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00:29:03.204 --> 00:29:06.474

But as I said earlier, the easiest number to remember,

209

00:29:06.595 --> 00:29:09.055

if you need to get in touch with someone to,

210

00:29:09.595 --> 00:29:10.855

regarding a service issue,

211

00:29:11.160 --> 00:29:12.265

not an emergency,

212

00:29:12.265 --> 00:29:18.444

where you're having a medical emergency or the houses on fire or some real emergency,

213

00:29:18.444 --> 00:29:29.244

where you need to police then what you want to do is call three one one that's the DC information line and they will connect you with someone at DDS."

214 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:29:30.625 --> 00:29:32.664

"How often are service coordinators checking in with the people

215

00:29:34.200 --> 00:29:44.994

On their caseload?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "They are checking in as often as they would normally. Their Teleworking and every time I've had this conversation with our staff, I've said the accent in that word is in the last

216

00:29:46.289 --> 00:29:54.625

Syllable, we continue to work."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "how specifically are service coordinators insuring that people have the staffing support and

217

00:29:55.799 --> 00:29:59.545

Supplies they need in their homes? Are service coordinators monitoring people receiving both

218

00:30:00.900 --> 00:30:11.605

residential services, and the people living in natural home? If the monitoring oversight different in residential placement, versus national health?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “No, that service coordinator are continuing to provide services

219

00:30:14.430 --> 00:30:23.275

As they always have. They are doing so remotely, so they're not going out to visit people. The only we have that are visiting people would be in cases

220

00:30:27.299 --> 00:30:32.634

Where there's an allegation of abuse or neglect or cases that are more serious, that needs to be investigated

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00:30:34.470 --> 00:30:44.095

Our investigators would be going out to check on the person and there are circumstances where there may be health issues and our nurse practitioners would be going out. Other than that people will be checking in by

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00:30:45.900 --> 00:30:54.085

Telephone by FaceTime by Skype, some other means of communicating with people. As I said earlier, the most important

223

00:30:55.019 --> 00:31:01.255

Thing is to limit the number of people that you come in direct contact with.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Do Residential providers have an adequate supple of protective

224

00:31:02.369 --> 00:31:05.785

gear and cleaning supplies, if not what is being done to keep both DDA

225

00:31:07.704 --> 00:31:12.055

Consumers staff safe?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “So one, a couple of

226

00:31:12.630 --> 00:31:16.164

responses to that, one is we shared information with providers this week

227

00:31:16.920 --> 00:31:20.634

Some information that we got from DC health and part of the focus with that was really on

228

00:31:22.470 --> 00:31:27.505

How do we conserve personal protective equipment and gave guidance on when it is really needed.

229

00:31:29.035 --> 00:31:37.224

And so that guidance is also on our website, and people can read that. it's very important People understand it. So that the people who actually need

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00:31:37.920 --> 00:31:42.234

This equipment will have it when it's necessary. We have also

231

00:31:43.259 --> 00:31:50.394

given our providers information from DC health, the administration within there

232

00:31:51.150 --> 00:31:54.444

Whose initials are HEPRA

233

00:31:58.319 --> 00:32:00.474

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration)

234

00:32:02.970 --> 00:32:10.075

So people can contact them about their PPE needs. Our quality resource specialists are also calling each of our providers weekly.

235

00:32:11.099 --> 00:32:14.515

Just to check in with them on their resource need. How their maintaining staff. How well their maintaining the resources in the home."

236 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:32:20.490 --> 00:32:24.085

"What is the Department of health guidance regarding what a provider should do if

237

00:32:25.259 --> 00:32:38.275

Someone living in a supported living residential rehabilitation, ICF home test positive, for covid-19? DDS and DOH should distribute to providers and stakeholders a specific guidance on this issue."

238 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:32:39.625 --> 00:32:40.795

"So that has been included in the guidance we've

239

00:32:41.759 --> 00:32:54.954

sent out, but it's also really important to know that when there's a positive test DC health steps in immediately, and does help to make sure that that person and anyone else living in their home,

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00:32:56.309 --> 00:32:59.994

Have the necessary intervention, whatever that may be.

241

00:33:00.779 --> 00:33:09.295

We have had one person who has tested positive so far DC health intervened. They made sure

242

00:33:10.650 --> 00:33:15.234

Person had a safe place to stay checked in with the other people who've been sharing a home before. This was

243

00:33:16.440 --> 00:33:26.095

Someone who lived in her home with her family and so, you know, fortunately so far we just had that one example, but DC health, immediately steps in and they make sure they

244

00:33:28.650 --> 00:33:39.384

Treat our folks, the way they treat everyone else in the city, which is to make sure that when someone positive, they have the resources and supports that They need."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Does DOH direct providers to quarantine in

245

00:33:40.710 --> 00:33:53.964

Place the person who tested positive or move them out?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "It depends. And, like I said, DC Health will step in, and they'll make that determination about how to ensure the safety of the people in the home and ensure that the person testing positive is getting the support they need.

246 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:33:58.319 --> 00:34:03.565

What is DOH's guidance regarding the other residence of the home? If one resident test positive?"

247 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:34:04.650 --> 00:34:09.324

"It depends, I mean, I could just keep repeating, but DC health does immediately step in and they provide guidance

248

00:34:11.909 --> 00:34:21.835

Depending on the makeup of the home, and they would answer that when the time came."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "if the guidance is to move the person who tested

249

00:34:23.340 --> 00:34:34.914

Positive or the other resident of the home? Where should providers move them?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "DC health actually takes care of that. So the provider, the provider won't be told this person needs to move and that's the end of it.

250

00:34:36.030 --> 00:34:40.105

Dc health steps in and says based on the configuration in this home its safer to move elsewhere

251

00:34:42.985 --> 00:34:49.405

And they have hotel rooms set up where people are having meals delivered and getting the care that they need

252

00:34:50.730 --> 00:35:00.534

While they need to remain isolated from other people."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "How will DDS ensure the person who tested positive has staff support when it is likely most direct care staff will refuse to work in the home?"

253 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:35:06.204 --> 00:35:08.155

"I, I don't know that I'd say it's likely. Winslow can answer that.

254 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**

00:35:10.920 --> 00:35:25.554

"We have at least one case where a person is in the process of awaiting their testing in the staff who graciously have been working with that person up until now continue to work with that

255

00:35:25.554 --> 00:35:32.094

person and has not left that person alone and is supporting them through the process using universal precautions.”

256 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:35:35.695 --> 00:35:43.105

“And as I said earlier, you know, our providers, their staff, DDS staff have really stepped up during this public health emergency

257

00:35:44.304 --> 00:35:49.914

And so, you know, we expect That'll continue to happen.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** What has DDS submitted under Appendix K to request

258

00:35:53.789 --> 00:36:01.795

flexibility in the provision of waiver services at this time? Has CMS responded to DDS request?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “So the appendix k is submitted by DCHF. DDS helps

259

00:36:03.570 --> 00:36:04.195

to prepare it.

260

00:36:10.800 --> 00:36:19.045

With DDS help in the preparation of the appendix K and we provided a summary last-

261

00:36:20.579 --> 00:36:24.625

Week of everything that was in that had been included so far in the appendix k.

262

00:36:26.125 --> 00:36:34.135

As soon as it has been submitted, we will post the appendix K, that's in draft form. So that people can see.

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00:36:35.605 --> 00:36:44.815

I will say that the appendix K, we're submitting is retroactive to March Eleventh. The date to public health emergency was declared and so as soon as

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00:36:46.469 --> 00:36:53.994

We submit it, we can let people know that, you know, the measures and we reviewed all these measures with the providers last week.

265

00:36:54.780 --> 00:36:58.824

I'll just quickly go over the areas that we're addressing, which is.

266

00:36:59.369 --> 00:37:03.054

Expanding the use of remote support, expanding the settings

267

00:37:03.840 --> 00:37:08.545

where services can be provided, making some adjustments in terms of the level of care,

268

00:37:10.440 --> 00:37:14.454

determinations where the determination could be discontinued if

269

00:37:15.719 --> 00:37:19.974

The team agrees, if an annual physical is due

270

00:37:20.880 --> 00:37:24.054

Pushing that all, making some changes to our incident reporting

271

00:37:25.679 --> 00:37:30.414

So that our face to face follow, ups are not required in all cases. All cases are reviewed immediately and

272

00:37:32.099 --> 00:37:45.175

A determination is made about when a face to face is needed and we have staff that. We're proposing some changes regarding our ISP development during that those continue to be developed on time but done remotely.

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00:37:46.380 --> 00:37:50.934

Where the consultation is with the team virtually I'm making some changes in provider requirements

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00:37:53.670 --> 00:37:57.175

Including some adjustments regarding

275

00:37:59.184 --> 00:38:01.465

Delaying what are normally pre-service requirements

276

00:38:04.045 --> 00:38:08.005

So the providers can bring staff on quickly as long as they ensure they have

277

00:38:09.719 --> 00:38:14.005

Qualified staff on site along with the person who hasn't completed all their training yet.

278

00:38:15.179 --> 00:38:19.644

With along with a deadline by when training would be finished and then some provisions regarding what are called retainer payments

279

00:38:22.320 --> 00:38:26.215

So, the, some of our day providers who aren't going to be able to provide.

280

00:38:27.750 --> 00:38:31.405

Services during this time will be able to be compensated during this time

281

00:38:34.135 --> 00:38:37.014

To hopefully keep them afloat for after this ends."

282 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:38:39.719 --> 00:38:43.885

"Please explain the oversight in place to ensure that providers have developed

283

00:38:44.610 --> 00:38:44.820

CEPPs and PEPPs."

284 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:38:51.630 --> 00:38:55.614

"So, we requested CEPPs from all of our providers

285

00:38:59.304 --> 00:39:02.485

On March the thirteenth, we had actually prior to that reached out to them

286

00:39:04.710 --> 00:39:06.414

And asked them to make sure that their CEPPs

287

00:39:07.675 --> 00:39:18.534

which is their, comprehensive emergency and preparedness plan, thank you, comprehensive emergency and preparedness plan that we asked them to look at them,

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00:39:18.534 --> 00:39:24.295

make sure that they were updated to address an emergency of this nature,

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00:39:24.565 --> 00:39:25.704

which is the first time any of us have dealt with something like this I expect.

290

00:39:28.704 --> 00:39:36.775

And then we ask them to submit those, we have gotten the, we asked them to get them into us by the seventeen. We've gotten them all back and we are now reviewing them

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00:39:38.304 --> 00:39:48.594

And we will get back with providers. If we have any concerns about them, we haven't asked them to submit their personal emergency preparedness plan

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00:39:49.469 --> 00:39:53.034

Because, as we looked at those and looked at them with other folks here, the kind of issues that they addressed

293

00:39:54.989 --> 00:40:01.945

were not really relevant to the current emergency."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Have all providers submitted CEPPs and PEPPs?"

294 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:40:05.875 --> 00:40:07.014

"It appears we still have two outstanding

295

00:40:10.344 --> 00:40:16.135

As of today, but the quality resource specialists are reaching out to them to make sure that the last two gets submitted."

296 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:40:18.449 --> 00:40:21.625

"Has DDS ensured the team has participated in development of these plans?"

297 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:40:22.619 --> 00:40:33.474

"So we're reviewing all the plans. Now. It's an interesting question whether the team has input in the development of the plan because I don't know, quite frankly if that is

298

00:40:37.559 --> 00:40:40.735

A required part of the”

~ **Kirk Dobson:** “No, so from a quality resource perspective, we are examining each plan and we will reach out to service coordination and other folks in the building should the need arrive

299

00:40:48.659 --> 00:40:55.855

but we're just examine see if there are any gaps or any resource limitations in those plans and address them as on a case by case bases.”

300 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:40:58.949 --> 00:41:04.585

“Is the clinical staff at DDS assessing the adequacy of the plans?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “The plans are being assessed by Quality Resource Unit.

301 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:41:08.639 --> 00:41:13.434

“How quickly are the plans being assessed?”

302 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:41:14.849 --> 00:41:18.054

“They are being reviewed as they come in and we expect to have viewed all plans and then reach out to

303

00:41:19.949 --> 00:41:25.494

Providers with concerns by early next week.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Is there any guidance from DDS regarding what should be included in these plans?”

304 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:41:26.965 --> 00:41:32.125

“So actually, when these plans were originally developed,

305

00:41:34.590 --> 00:41:37.855

We had contracted with and

306

00:41:40.199 --> 00:41:47.244

An expert in the area of emergency preparedness, who was an expert in emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

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00:41:48.420 --> 00:41:53.815

And she actually work with all the providers in the development of their initial plans. We then reached out to the providers.

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00:41:58.074 --> 00:42:07.525

We gave them some guidance on the 13th in terms of what additional things needed to be included for this particular emergency and gave them that that guidance to review before submitting their plans to us.”

309 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:42:12.179 --> 00:42:15.235

“Does DDS have a plan if staffing in the homes becomes inadequate due to staff not reporting to

310

00:42:16.050 --> 00:42:20.005

work because they are ill or for other reasons?”

311 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:42:21.210 --> 00:42:24.985

“So, part of what we've included in the appendix K is some flexibility in hiring

312

00:42:26.130 --> 00:42:30.594

So, that providers are able to bring people on more quickly in addition to this we have some

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00:42:32.369 --> 00:42:35.605

Day programs where they're not continuing to provide services and there may be

314

00:42:38.514 --> 00:42:51.385

Folks who work there who could immediately start working for another provider.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Will DDA staff assist in providing staffing support?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “No.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Is DDS assisting providers in searching for people to

315

00:42:53.429 --> 00:42:57.835

Fill those current vacancies and the likely growing future vacancies?”

316 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:42:59.275 --> 00:43:01.974

"No, I know that there's been some coordination between DCHR and DOES with the providers.

317

00:43:05.034 --> 00:43:16.284

And so the city is working to help with, to the extent they can to help with bringing people on board, you know, the sort of Silver Lining on one of the more

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00:43:18.324 --> 00:43:29.934

Challenging things in this current crisis is huge unemployment rate that we have currently. There are a lot of people out there who are looking for work right now.

319

00:43:30.150 --> 00:43:35.425

And so our hope is that we will be able to bring qualified people on quickly, well the providers will be able to bring qualified people on quickly."

320 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:43:38.969 --> 00:43:42.775

"Have provider staff who work with DDA consumers directly been deemed "essential employees?" If no, why not?"

321~ **Director Reese:**

00:43:44.070 --> 00:43:47.335

"Part of the mayor's order was to identify employees who are

322

00:43:51.715 --> 00:43:53.934

Considered essential and

323

00:43:56.250 --> 00:44:04.795

The people who work with our population are included in that definition of what is an essential employee."

324 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:44:06.360 --> 00:44:11.034

"Has DDS provided technical assistance to providers regarding how to support individuals who are likely very scared and confused right now?"

325 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**

00:44:12.300 --> 00:44:21.085

"So the person, if they already had

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00:44:21.750 --> 00:44:28.164

A psychological support could access through thier

327

00:44:30.355 --> 00:44:37.914

provider through telehealth and also we're going to include any resources that the Department of Behavioral Health may have

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00:44:40.704 --> 00:44:48.565

But we would then expect that we are sharing that information with the person service coordinator that if those

329

00:44:49.409 --> 00:45:01.704

services were needed in there, adjustments would be made and proper authorizations and providers would be put in place. Should the person that have already had those services in place.

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "I would also say one of the most important things right now is to continue to remind people of

330

00:45:06.659 --> 00:45:11.784

The things that they can do to take care of themselves during this, and I know that it seems basic and simple but

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00:45:13.710 --> 00:45:21.985

Continually reminding people that this is a virus you catch from other people that is very important to maintain your distance, it's very important to regularly wash

332

00:45:23.039 --> 00:45:28.255

Your hands, to let someone know if you're not feeling well, and if you cough or sneeze to either do so in a tissue

333

00:45:30.329 --> 00:45:32.545

Or into your sleeve,

334

00:45:34.469 --> 00:45:37.105

if necessary.

~ **Kirk Dobson:** "in addition,

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00:45:37.135 --> 00:45:40.914

our quality resource specialists are working with the providers that they're assigned to,

336

00:45:40.914 --> 00:45:42.355

to make sure that anyone,

337

00:45:42.480 --> 00:45:46.494

if any of the people who supported these provider locations are having these issues of troubles that we,

338

00:45:46.980 --> 00:45:47.875

are notified about it

339

00:45:47.875 --> 00:45:50.724

And we're also providing guidance in how to address and

340

00:45:51.630 --> 00:45:56.094

Work with people that we support on these issues.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “Okay. And so, this is the last question that

341

00:45:58.170 --> 00:46:05.304

was submitted. With day programs closed, DDS is permitting providers to support people during the day in their homes if

342

00:46:06.059 --> 00:46:18.085

If the day program or supported living provider is not authorized to provide companion services but wants to be, can they be approved quickly? How long is

343

00:46:18.929 --> 00:46:24.505

it taking for DDS/DHCF to authorize providers to provide companion services?”

344 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:46:25.255 --> 00:46:33.565

“Our appendix K does that and so it will once it's approved, it will be approved retroactive to March eleventh and providers have already started doing this

345

00:46:35.309 --> 00:46:40.644

So if an approved service provider they would also be considered and approve companion services provider

346

00:46:46.614 --> 00:46:47.364

So.

347

00:46:51.804 --> 00:46:53.394

So, that should not be a

348

00:46:55.465 --> 00:46:59.304

Challenge because there is not going to be the typical qualifications process with

349

00:47:02.070 --> 00:47:11.875

DHCF, I just want to say we've got a number of questions from the client assistance program at ULS, but they had asked for written responses by a particular date,

350

00:47:14.519 --> 00:47:22.195

I don't know if there are people on the phone with concerns regarding rehabilitation services administration. All of their questions seem to be related to

351

00:47:24.090 --> 00:47:27.894

Students who are getting post-secondary education and how we're supposed to be supporting them because

352

00:47:30.000 --> 00:47:33.744

I expect most people to know very rarely is there any

353

00:47:35.940 --> 00:47:38.965

College and the country right now that has not moved to distance education.

354

00:47:41.909 --> 00:47:49.375

Our counselors have been reaching out to every one they support who is in a college or university, or any college or post-secondary training right

355

00:47:52.559 --> 00:48:05.125

Now, making sure that they have everything they need so that they can transition from education in person to online education, making sure they have the necessary resources

356

00:48:07.195 --> 00:48:11.755

And we have not heard any concerns about that transition so far so if anyone does have those concerns they

357

00:48:14.815 --> 00:48:21.235

Should call their V. R counselor or that person's supervisor and there were a number of questions all related to that, it seems to me.

358

00:48:23.190 --> 00:48:29.005

And those written responses will be provided."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "So we have questions that you guys have typed in.

359

00:48:30.420 --> 00:48:40.795

What guidance has been issued and or updated with respect to making sure people who use support are counted in the DC census.

360

00:48:42.480 --> 00:48:51.385

Reliable count residence by residence. It's unlikely to work in current circumstances."

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "I'm not clear why it's unlikely to work in current circumstances

361

00:48:54.894 --> 00:48:57.594

Because you. So what happens

362

00:48:58.860 --> 00:49:01.885

Is it every one of us fairly recently has received sometime in the mail from the US census

363

00:49:07.375 --> 00:49:14.545

Just for people's benefit, I'll let, you know, a mistake I made on it, which is it the question that it ask

364

00:49:15.625 --> 00:49:28.855

Is on April one who reside in your home? As there have been all of the changes and young people or older people

365

00:49:29.639 --> 00:49:36.114

Who are away at school if they transition back home prior to April one, they count as part of the household.

366

00:49:36.900 --> 00:49:45.565

So, you know, I was very anxious, to fill my form out immediately, and then after I filled by form out, we had some changes in our household and I had to call the census bureau to see how I can adjust my form.

367

00:49:50.610 --> 00:50:00.085

We have posted on our website and we had provided guidance to our providers about making, sure we get counted in the census. The census is vital

368

00:50:00.900 --> 00:50:09.025

For the district of Columbia, and it's vital for folks with disabilities to make sure that we are counted. And so it's really important.

369

00:50:09.809 --> 00:50:19.704

When you get your, your census form, some people get a short form, where you give just a little bit of information about who's in your home. Some people get a long.

370

00:50:20.755 --> 00:50:25.105

And that long form is where they gather really important information about the make-up of the community.

371

00:50:27.059 --> 00:50:30.925

So, people who don't answer the question online

372

00:50:31.949 --> 00:50:36.175

Will receive a follow up either call first and then a follow up visit from the census bureau.

373

00:50:37.079 --> 00:50:41.844

to make sure that each household has responded, but we have sent something out reminding people

374

00:50:42.809 --> 00:50:50.454

every household needs to respond to this and to check their mail and respond online. I'll just give additional caution

375

00:50:52.045 --> 00:50:55.014

We don't know from one day to the next how many people are going to be living in our homes,

376

00:50:56.699 --> 00:51:04.465

So, while I was very anxious to fill out my form, you might want to wait until closer to April first. Because the question is, who lives in your home

377

00:51:05.460 --> 00:51:09.594

On April, first.

~ **Kirk Dobson:** "just interject, We have about nine minutes left to try to get through these questions, so we may not get to them all."

378 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:51:14.545 --> 00:51:17.394

"Has the appendix k process being completed?"

379 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:51:20.010 --> 00:51:28.585

"It's being finalized, and our hope is that it will be submitted very, very soon. The finalization of it is done by DHCF.

380

00:51:31.974 --> 00:51:36.114

Not to be pushing anyone under the bus here. Right. So, it's been work between DDS and DHCF. We've worked very closely on it and I got an email this morning

381

00:51:40.949 --> 00:51:46.284

Saying we, we hope that it will be submitted very, very soon meaning ideally today

382

00:51:47.875 --> 00:51:49.644

If not shortly thereafter."

383 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:52:01.110 --> 00:52:06.175

"Are there rents in place for home health workers to assure safety of the staff and the patients?"

384

00:52:06.750 --> 00:52:10.525

Especially those who have multiple clients, and are serving different households."

385 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:52:11.159 --> 00:52:14.844

“So, we have sent guidance out there's guidance that DC Health has provided

386

00:52:17.070 --> 00:52:21.565

About how people should be providing services and note that guidance is available on our website

387

00:52:23.880 --> 00:52:29.364

And everyone should become familiar with it. Did you have something to add Winslow?”

388 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**

00:52:29.940 --> 00:52:39.324

“All the on health workers in others who traveled through multiple settings are trained on universal precautions and with regard to this

389

00:52:41.394 --> 00:52:47.965

Particular outbreak the hand washing, the using of

390

00:52:48.570 --> 00:52:51.684

Personal protective equipment and

391

00:52:52.769 --> 00:52:56.815

Not working while you're ill is guidance

392

00:52:57.630 --> 00:53:04.704

A part of training prior to covid-19 being an issue.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “and there is, like I said on our website, you can see very specific guidance

393

00:53:06.744 --> 00:53:10.914

For non-healthcare workers

394

00:53:11.670 --> 00:53:14.815

Who are working with people in this current time.”

395 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:53:19.920 --> 00:53:24.474

Is DDS taking most Liberal possible approach to intake eligibility at this time?”

396

00:53:26.039 --> 00:53:29.695

Many with DD suffering now and ineligible under current waiver.”

397 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:53:33.775 --> 00:53:39.085

“As we had said in our performance hearing and our position and our attorneys position is

398

00:53:41.579 --> 00:53:45.534

The statue dictates eligibility and our ability to expend funds based on that eligibility so

399

00:53:48.389 --> 00:53:51.625

This is not a time that we could expand eligibility.”

400 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:53:53.519 --> 00:54:05.394

“Do you have any advice for people who are currently unable to use their snap benefits because they cannot visit a grocery store in person whether due to age, disability status, immune capability status,

401

00:54:05.425 --> 00:54:11.605

or having to quarantine?”

~ **Winslow Woodland:** “in terms of if the person doesn’t have

402

00:54:15.179 --> 00:54:18.414

Current supports in place, I would recommend,

403

00:54:19.110 --> 00:54:24.894

I'm just reading this question, all the people that DDS supports, who have these types of needs

404

00:54:26.280 --> 00:54:31.135

Would have those reviewed prior to covid-19 and supports being put in place

405

00:54:32.065 --> 00:54:36.534

As well, as the opportunity to amend when their service delivery needs change

406

00:54:38.275 --> 00:54:41.244

Even during covid-19. So my assumption is this question

407

00:54:42.179 --> 00:54:46.105

Comes from someone who's not supported by DDA and I would recommend contacting

408

00:54:48.474 --> 00:54:57.144

The DC Health and Human Services Department hotline to express concerns. So that they can be referred to the appropriate agency.”

409 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:55:02.130 --> 00:55:08.244

“Right. I don't know, for example, if you can use snap benefits to order food online.

410

00:55:11.429 --> 00:55:16.614

You can go to the grocery store and maintain social distance from people. Ideally, you'll identify times where there aren't many people

411

00:55:18.929 --> 00:55:25.795

At the grocery store, you would make sure and wash your hands. You know I know that the grocery store I go to has wipes available so that you make sure before you touch the cart you wipe it

412

00:55:30.750 --> 00:55:38.485

Down take all those necessary precautions, you know, to make sure as I keep repeating social distance from people, washing

413

00:55:39.179 --> 00:55:47.094

Your hands regularly, you know, that's how all of us will stay safe for this.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:** “and another things is

414

00:55:47.909 --> 00:55:55.284

Some grocery stores, such as Harris Teeters and safe way have designated time for people who are elderly or have an immune compromised status.

415

00:55:58.139 --> 00:56:03.025

There are certain times an hour, two hour gaps where they would allow them to shop.

416

00:56:04.949 --> 00:56:06.655

So, that might be helpful as well.”

417

00:56:15.539 --> 00:56:20.304

Does DDS have any sense, whatever about the needs of people in the community who are not

418

00:56:22.139 --> 00:56:29.485

Currently covered in the IDD waiver or those people just off the radar?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "They're certainly not off the radar.

419

00:56:31.409 --> 00:56:35.454

In the emergency operations center within the district government

420

00:56:38.070 --> 00:56:41.905

There is a committee that is looking at human services.

421

00:56:42.420 --> 00:56:45.775

on that committee Jared's attending the meeting for me right now because I couldn't make the meeting

422

00:56:49.079 --> 00:56:52.614

Today, because of these calls, but these kinds of issues are the ones. You know, how do you make sure

423

00:56:55.139 --> 00:56:58.135

All vulnerable people during this time are able to get access to food and shelter.

424

00:57:00.420 --> 00:57:03.655

Those are the kinds of things that we're looking at for the whole city."

425 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:57:04.889 --> 00:57:09.985

"We have three minutes left. Here's another question."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "to the students with disabilities, this is especially important

426

00:57:12.119 --> 00:57:16.135

If your family does not yet qualify for home services and not only get

427

00:57:16.710 --> 00:57:21.025

For relate related services in the IEP help is needed, with troubleshooting care

428

00:57:23.425 --> 00:57:26.364

Even if it's different laws that guide these services.”

429 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:57:29.125 --> 00:57:40.284

“we agree we elevated this question the other day so that it could be addressed by through the deputy mayor for education’s office because there are people who get

430

00:57:41.639 --> 00:57:50.275

Services other than just their education when they're in school and so, you know, as people may be aware, we don't work with youth who were in school generally.

431

00:57:51.715 --> 00:57:56.875

And so that isn't something unfortunately I know the answer to immediately, but it is something that we've flagged and asked for an answer from education

432

00:58:00.179 --> 00:58:04.465

To clarify for people who have service needs and see how those needs are being met during this time.”

433 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:58:11.994 --> 00:58:17.335

“are you collecting the chat questions to answer on the next call or before?”

434 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:58:19.019 --> 00:58:31.585

We are collecting all of the questions. Yes.

~ **Kirk Dobson:** “And we'll send out the answers, the transcript with the answers to all participants, or load to our website. We'll present our website after this call.”

435 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:58:32.579 --> 00:58:36.175

“Is it accessible?”

~ **Kirk Dobson:** “Unfortunately WebEx doesn't have the feature for closed captions but we will

436

00:58:38.909 --> 00:58:42.414

Provide a transcript of this call on the website after this, sometime next week

437

00:58:43.199 --> 00:58:46.405

prior to the next call next week. If there any additional questions, we'll also be sending out a request for more questions sometime next week."

438 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:58:51.119 --> 00:58:54.534

"Okay, so someone asked in the appendix k is there anything in ther about staffing ratios?"

439 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:58:58.349 --> 00:59:01.644

"Yes, I think I had mentioned that last week and it was in my summary and yes that was

440

00:59:04.230 --> 00:59:07.945

There, and that's been there from the beginning and just so people know, DHCF did have

441

00:59:09.420 --> 00:59:12.655

A conversation early in the week with CMS and reviewed

442

00:59:13.800 --> 00:59:21.864

The sort of the outlines of what we had at that point and CMS is generally favorable about everything that was there."

~ **Kirk Dobson:** "There's a follow up question to the conversation about solutions

443 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:59:26.969 --> 00:59:32.664

"How can we be looped into that conversation and can participate and helping find those solutions?"

444 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:59:35.309 --> 00:59:44.844

"Those are conversations that would happen in the education cluster. So unfortunately, I don't I don't know what to tell you there. I would just encourage you to reach out to someone on the education side with your questions.

445

00:59:47.280 --> 00:59:50.514

But, like I said, we're trying to get the answer so we'll see what we can find out but

446

00:59:52.945 --> 00:59:55.045

you should do your advocacy with

447

00:59:57.594 --> 01:00:03.594

The education folks.”

~ **Kirk Dobson:** “so that concludes the question portion of this forum and the form itself. We just want to remind people again to wash your hands.

448

01:00:07.019 --> 01:00:15.264

The suggestion that, you know, if you sing happy birthday song twice, that should be a sufficient amount of time to wash your hands again. The full happy birthday song, twice.

449

01:00:20.519 --> 01:00:24.985

We will be hosting the next form next week at the same time and I think we have one more”

450 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

01:00:26.635 --> 01:00:34.405

“I just wanted to also share for those who dialed in by phone and do not have access to the computer.

451

01:00:35.039 --> 01:00:43.675

If you have follow up questions, if you can call Charlisa Payne at two, zero, two, four, four, two, eighty four, eleven.

452

01:00:44.280 --> 01:00:47.335

That's two zero two four, four, two, eighty, four, eleven.

453

01:00:49.409 --> 01:00:52.554

Kirk mentioned, we will have this meeting as a reoccurring meeting at 10:30am every

454

01:00:55.170 --> 01:01:03.324

Friday. You all these invitations soon regarding the follow-up meetings”

455

01:01:05.250 --> 01:01:08.664

So, we're typing in Charlisa Payne's number now.”

456 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

01:01:16.590 --> 01:01:30.355

“So, thank you very much. Everyone like I said, ten, thirty next week will be on the call. We're going to be figuring out the ways. Once we have all of this, that we can make all of it available publicly. We don't know how large the document of this recording will be

457

01:01:32.579 --> 01:01:44.905

But we can also get a transcript of the recording so we want to make sure that all this information is available to the community. Thanks keep your questions coming. We'll do our best to respond. As I said.

458

01:01:45.900 --> 01:01:48.864

Keep watching our website and the DC website. These things are changing everyday

459

01:01:52.079 --> 01:02:06.144

And stay aware of those basic things taking care of yourself. Someone reminded me washing your hands for twenty seconds, you know, taking care of yourself making sure you're keeping your distance from people and making sure your figuring out things you can do

460

01:02:08.820 --> 01:02:12.295

To stay comfortable during this time when we're not supposed to be social.

461

01:02:13.139 --> 01:02:20.994

You know, social distancing is challenging, not just physically, but emotionally to not be able to get close to people. So, working with the people you live with to come up with things you can do

462

01:02:23.670 --> 01:02:28.260

To stay healthy during this time. Talk to you all next week. Thanks."