

## COVID-19 Update

June 1, 2020

### North Metro Community Services

I don't know how I write this update without acknowledging what is going on in our country right now. I'm not going to get into the right and wrong of what's going on but if you watch the video of the death of George Floyd I don't know how you can't be shocked, disgusted and heartbroken. My hope is this horrifying event and the firestorm it has ignited will make us all think about what we need to do to be part of the solution and help make our country a better place for everyone.

It has been a fairly quiet week here at North Metro. We started doing some very small day program groups last week and that went well. HCPF has issued new guidelines that will make it practical to serve two groups in our main building and two groups at the Brighton building. We are submitting the application to get those locations approved yet this week. The application is pretty short and simple so hopefully it won't take long for HCPF to review it and approve our plan or let us know what else we might need to do to get approval. With luck this will allow us to expand our day program offerings by mid-June in addition to the virtual programming that we are currently offering.

Back in April HCPF rolled out enhanced rates for Residential Services that we have passed on to our Residential providers. These dollars were available because people stopped using many Medicaid services when the COVID-19 crisis hit and as a result HCPF had unspent money. However this will not be the case in fiscal year 20/21, which begins July 1, 2020. HCPF has seen Medicaid enrollment explode as people have lost their jobs and become eligible for this coverage; thousands of new people have enrolled. This combined with budget cuts means there are no excess dollars to fund these enhancements after June 30 so those payments will end. Without these additional dollars coming in from HCPF we have no way to continue the enhanced payments beyond June 30. I raise this to give everyone who has been receiving these funds a month's notice that they will be coming to an end.

Once again I'm happy to report that there have not been any new reports of infection among staff, providers or the people we serve. I am cautiously optimistic that it will stay that way but we will continue to monitor the situation as restrictions are lifted and more people are out and about.

The State budget continues to roll along and so far there have been no changes that will significantly impact the funding for people with IDD. Things are moving quickly at the Legislature and we expect the budget to be presented to the Governor for his signature sometime next week.

That's all I have for you this week, stay healthy and safe.

Randy Brodersen  
Executive Director