



# Member Forum

July 24, 2020

- Welcome and Introductions – Rick Adams, Chair
- Industry Update – John Barth, Katy Stafford-Cunningham, and Sarah Chestnut
- Q & A with State Representative Carey Hamilton

## Upcoming Member Forums

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The August Board meeting and Member Forum will be held Friday, August 28 via GoToWebinar.

10-11:30 AM Member Forum

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Board Meeting

The Forum will include an update from Allison Taylor, Indiana Medicaid Director, and Michael Cook, Director, Provider Services, OMPP

## HCBS Rule Deadline Extended

- July 14 – Due to COVID-19, CMS [extended](#) the deadline for ensuring compliance with the HCBS Rule to March 17, 2023.
- INARF successfully urged FSSA to extend their deadlines for compliance to align with CMS' deadline.
  - July 20 – Cathy Robinson confirmed DDRS' intent to extend the timeline.

## Republican Coronavirus Aid Bill Draft

- \$25 billion for Provider Relief Fund; \$7.6 billion for Community Health Centers
- Streamlined PPP loan forgiveness for under \$150k and an intermediate forgiveness process for under \$1 million
- No additional money for state and local governments
- States must maintain their budgeted spending levels (cannot use the federal dollars to replace state spending)
- The date for using CARES Act funding is extended from 12/30/2020 to 90 days after the end of the fiscal year
- Liability Reform
  - Exclusive federal cause of action that applies to litigation against any business, non-profit, etc. arising from COVID.
  - To prevail, plaintiffs must show that the defendant was grossly negligent or engaged in willful misconduct **and** violated relevant state/local public health guidelines in place at the time the incident occurred. Additionally, there is a cap on damage awards.

## **DDRS state-only funded services and program changes**

- May 21 – State Budget Agency announced that each state agency was asked to immediately implement a 15% budget reduction
- July 13
  - DDRS announced the following reductions:
    - Reduced contracts
    - Eliminated state-only funded Caregiver supports as of July 1, 2020  
Annual impact: approximately 60 individuals
    - Eliminated state-only funded Community based sheltered work and facility based sheltered work as of August 14, 2020  
Annual impact: approximately 260 individuals and 16 providers
  - INARF convened a meeting of our impacted members
- July 21 – INARF collaborated with The Arc of Indiana to schedule a discussion with DDRS and providers impacted by the service cuts

- July 21 - INARF convened a meeting with DDRS and two INARF members to give members the opportunity to share the complexity of operating in the COVID environment, to discuss some of the situations providers are facing and the challenges inherent with keeping individuals and staff safe
- INARF drafted guidance recommendations regarding activities outside the home, travel, and family visits for DDRS to consider including in future updates to their guidance documents

- INARF informed DDRS of challenges providers are facing related to delays obtaining COVID test results
- DDRS discussed these issues with ISDH – they recommended that provider staff go to either an [ISDH Drive-Thru Testing Site](#) or an [Optum Site](#) for testing
- ISDH Drive-Thru sites have the better turnaround time on average, but are more limited in the number of locations
- Optum Sites have a reasonable average turnaround time (averaging about 50 hours) but that may vary based on the site and/or the lab they are utilizing.
- **Staff using these resources should indicate that they work in a congregate residential setting when obtaining their test**

## Current COVID-19 Incidence Data (Individuals and Staff)

As of July 17:

- Individuals supported with positive cases: 244: 74 SGL, 170 Waiver
- Individuals supported deaths: 14
  
- Staff positives: 230
- Staff deaths: 4 deaths – 1 SGL, 3 waiver

## DDRS Day Services Sustainability Grants

- 2nd round of grants closed July 17 – almost all providers who applied for Round 1 reapplied; 1-2 new applicants
- Providers notified this week of the status of their application
- **Poll**

Third Round		
May 2020 or June 2020 (based on providers initial election)	Opens on: July 27, 2020 Closes on: August 14, 2020 at 6 p.m. EDT	August 21, 2020
Fourth and Final Round		
June 2020 or July 2020 (based on providers initial election)	Opens on: August 24, 2020 Closes on: September 18, 2020 at 6 p.m.	September 25, 2020

## COVID-19 Impact on VR Participants Questionnaire

- As of July 17, 544 questionnaires returned
  - 16% laid off
  - 40% furloughed
  - 2% working remotely
  - 4% terminated – not COVID-related
  - 12% quit
- 33% No interruption
- 67% Some interruption
- Good return in northern and central Indiana; slightly more sparse in southern Indiana
- In June, BRS experienced huge increases in authorized Discovery (largely due to questionnaire completion authorizations); SE hourly; Employment Services milestones 1 & 2; Hourly job search; Hourly job readiness training; and Extended services

## Living Well Survey

- Anonymous survey to understand experiences and perspectives on BQIS' current approach to quality and compliance, as well as ideas for improvement
- Purpose: to understand how BDDS/BQIS can better support you in your work to meet the life goals and health and safety needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Deadline: July 31, 2020.**

[BQIS Living Well Case Manager Survey](#)

[BQIS Living Well Provider Survey](#)

[BQIS Living Well DSP Survey](#)

- Federal CARES Act provider relief funds application deadline is August 3
- 161 days until the deadline to fully implement EVV
  - Alt EVV vendors are currently experiencing 3-4 week wait times on tech support requests to Sandata
  - If your organization has not yet selected a vendor or decided to use the Sandata solution, you need to decide as soon as possible

## Fiscal Impact Survey

- INARF is collecting data on the fiscal impact of COVID-19 on the IDD service delivery system and providers to quantify the challenges you are facing
- Please complete the survey **by close of business today**

[Updated INARF COVID-19 Financial Impact Survey](#)



Q & A with State Representative  
Carey Hamilton



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