



## North Country Community Mental Health Provider Skype Meeting

### COVID-19 PROVIDER RESPONSE

April 15, 2020

2 pm – 3 pm

**THE PURPOSE OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING:** is to address changes and answer questions during COVID-19 pandemic.

**Presenters:** Brian Babbitt, Brandy Marvin, Christine Gebhard, Debra Erber, Lani Laporte, Kimberly Rappleyea, and Linda Kleiber.

**Attendance:** Consumer Direct, Cornerstone AFC, LLC, Spectrum Community Services, Baseline Clinical Services, Inc., Summertree Residential Center, Inc., Gentle Winds, LLC, Lighthouse, INC., Alternative Services, Inc., AuSable In Home Care, Rapid River AFC, Beacon Specialized Living Services, Inc., Crossroads Industries, Inc., Crossroads Industries, Inc.

**Brian reviewed new additions to the NCCMH Website under the Provider Manual.** The new additions concern ordering masks and other Resources that are available. To locate the links, you will find it on the website under NCCMH Contract Provider Manual.

- American Molecular Laboratories – Connections for ordering masks
- ASI COVID Product Suppliers - Resources
- Appropriate Use of PPE – PowerPoint for use of PPE equipment.

**Brian followed-up on 'Behavioral Health Freedom of Movement'** a communication that went out on March 30, 2020. There were questions concerning it. Kim Rappleyea commented on some specific things that need to be allowed:

- Concerning others coming into the home, such as visits from guardians and parents, a video visit is preferred, and masks can be required.
- Statewide shelter rules are in place and will help control others entering the home. Anything that pertains to you or I, also pertain to our clients.

**Testing Guidelines have been expanded.** It has been extended to almost anyone who is symptomatic.

- There are various testing sights available now. Go to [MDHHS/Coronavirus/Resources/Residents/Find a Testing Center Site Near You](#). Enter in your address and it will bring up the closest site.
- It was recommended that you check with your local Health Department for the closest testing centers to you.
- The basic process remains the same if you are not hospitalized. Contact your PCP and follow their directions.

**Kim added a new link to the home page of the website**– BHDDA Communications Related to COVID-19 Policy Updates and Changes. (Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration)

**State of Michigan:** The State of Michigan is addressing food shortages for AFC homes, and alternative housing if needed. They will be publishing a list of who to call if help is needed in these situations. DHHS in Lansing has established a state of emergency Operations Manager for each county. If you are having problems obtaining food, contact the coordinator for your county. They will put you in touch with a food distributor who has larger quantities available. These will be larger companies like Gordan Foods or Sysco. It will be added to the website. You may email Lani at [llaporte@norcocmh.org](mailto:llaporte@norcocmh.org) for further information on this issue.

**Brian asked for Feedback concerning food supplies in the homes:**

- Tamie Stevens (ASI): Their shoppers carry a letter indicating they are shopping for a group home, and thus the need to purchase larger quantities.
- Lani suggested they carry the letter idea over to 'essential employees'.
- Jenny Bishop (Beacon Specialized Services): Their home takes a copy of their license into the store and this has been sufficient.
- Rainey (ASI): They use a letter authorizing essential workers and essential shoppers.
- If there are any issues that you would like to discuss outside the forum, please feel free to call Brian 231.439.1240

**Question of what is the biggest concerns for this week?**

- Tamie Stevens: (Alternative Services) Consumers or staff getting sick.
- Jenny Bhaskaran: (Alternative Services) Asked if NCCMH has heard anything on receiving checks as Advocacy on Medicaid. Medicaid was going to increase the rate statewide. She also asked about the Federal Hero's Fund.
- Brian will check with Christine on any updates concerning Jenny's questions.
- Lani will be sending out information that allows you to make your voice known to your legislators about funding needs of the mental health industry.

**May 5 Provider Meeting will only be a 'SKYPE' meeting at the regular 10 am time.**

**It was agreed to continue the Virtual Provider Meetings because of how quickly changes are being made to address the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Another invite will be sent out for the next meeting.**