

Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes

MAY 26, 2021
3:00PM-4:00PM

Review and approval of meeting minutes:

- Reviewed meeting minutes from last meeting – Approved and Seconded.

Vaccine update:

DOH RedCap survey – being sent to Adult Family Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. Not sending to nursing facilities because they report in NHSN.

This is voluntary, asking AFHs and ALFs to report weekly.

DOH has received a little over 160 responses so far.

SNFs are to report into NHSN by mid-June. DSHS has added questions on survey to align with NHSN. DOH is exploring moving questions from NHSN into WAHealth. Hospitals currently use WAHealth. This would put all the data in one place so we could look at capacity across the entire system of care.

Given the SNFs have to enter it directly into NHSN, is there interest in having DSHS upload it? DSHS currently does this for about 50 facilities now.

ACTION ITEM: Larissa Lewis to send list of providers using DSHS for upload to Elena Madrid.

Per Elena, on the most recent call, CMS said enforcement would happen by June, reporting into the system should be happening now. WHCA will reach out to members on the list (50 of the 200 facilities across the state that use DSHS to upload information)

Breakthrough and variants:

Not a lot of change from last week.

Question: Has the B.1.6.1.7 variant from India been found in WA? Yes, but it's not prevalent.

Larissa shared weekly reports:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/data-tables/420-316-SequencingAndVariantsReport.pdf>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/data-tables/420-339-VaccineBreakthroughReport.pdf>

Review of handout for new providers/change of ownership providers:

RCS is happy to distribute this to providers.

Question: At the time of licensing, there is a lot of paperwork so when will this appear in the process?

RCS Response: We could send when we send the actual license. For AFH/ALF, the licensor could give it to them at the final licensing visit.

JoAnn Parris from DOH walked through the document. Discussion around potentially paring it down or making separate documents for different resources.

ACTION ITEM: Kristi Knudsen to send document out to group. Comments on the document should be sent to JoAnn by June 1st. Also will add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Vaccine Update from Kathy Bay:

Vaccination meetings that were held weekly with stakeholders will now be held monthly.

Booster planning will be based on when it's decided boosters are best indicated.

Data is showing that people are getting more accepting of vaccination.

Regarding the hospital discharge vaccination program – Kathy has a list of hospitals and their levels of participation in the program. She should have it ready for distribution prior to next week's meeting of this group.

Rapid Response Team and funding source:

Reported that staffing concerns are getting dire with many open positions.

Teams are not available as they are booked.

NHSN report is showing more red in terms of staffing.

CMS has said they are seeing increased Immediate Jeopardy citations across the country and are attributing that to staffing.

ACTION ITEM: Mike to report trends in use next week (he was not available to attend this week's meeting).

In terms of funding source, we are working with OFM and CMS to figure out how states can access the ARPA funding for ongoing support of the rapid response teams. Current funding is through June.

Legislation:

HB 1218 – RCS is meeting with the HAI team at DOH tomorrow. They will be forming the stakeholder group for this work. The bill directs creation of recommendations and guidance for epidemic response in long-term care in WA. RCS has a project position that will be available July 1. Until then, Amy Abbott will represent DSHS/ALTSA in this work. RCS will also be hiring a training manager to create LTC program training for LHJs.

Rule-making is also a part of this, related to disaster/pandemic preparedness – 2 policy positions will be filled to do that work.

Question: Does this group have recommendations on how we form the stakeholder group or what form that takes?

Response: Recommend steering committee approach. Smaller group to process issues and vote and subgroups to provide feedback. Less likely then to be splintered/silo'd. Can decide internally within organizations who takes the lead and assign out tasks internally for the lead to report out.

Amy will take this suggestion to the meeting tomorrow.

HB 1120 is mostly DSHS work. HB 1218 has lots of crossover with DOH.

Other comments:

WHCA has many emails regarding PPE in facilities.

RCS finished the PPE Dear Provider letter that providers can show visitors so that everyone is clear about source control guidance. The letter also includes a link to signage that facilities can use that was developed by the hospital association.

Agenda for next meeting:

Vaccination update (data, areas of concern, updates on access and tracking for ongoing vaccination, etc.)

COVID cases in LTC facilities (new outbreaks, breakthrough, variants, etc.)

Review of comments received on new provider/CHOW COVID-19 vaccination resource sheet

Strike teams and ongoing funding