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| Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes | **September 2, 2020**3:00PM-4:00PM |

**Intro and reminder of virtual meeting protocols**

**Review and approval of meeting minutes:**

* Minutes should be separated from agenda
* Minutes will be sent for review prior to next meeting and standard approval vote and second used at the meeting with opportunity for discussion and amendments

**Review of draft charter:**

* Add a definition of who is included in this group, who we are representing
* The charter is currently open-ended. We should add a sentence that gives an end to this such as “The meetings and activities of this advisory group will adjourn when the threat of COVID-19 has passed.”
* There should be a goal in the charter to provide optimal treatment practices. How this goal is accomplished may look differently to different members of this group.

ACTION ITEM: Bill mentioned meeting 1:1 with Dr. von Preyss to discuss the goal of optimal treatment practices.

ACTION ITEM: Send out draft charter before next week’s meeting to gather additional edits.

**N-95 masks and fit testing:**

* This process is too difficult for facilities to manage.
* There is a multi-page questionnaire
* This is a mandate that facilities do not know how to deal with and facilities are being fined
* Adult Family Homes don’t have access to masks, vendors are taking advantage of providers

From LNI:

* Respirator rule and manual has been in place for a long time
* LNI cannot speak to costs, price gouging, supplies or testing fees
* There are occupational clinics available to provide fit testing

Other discussion:

* LeadingAge has done train the trainer with Eric Gutzweiler
* It’s important to note we’ve never seen COVID before and the respirator policies may have been around for years but long-term care facilities have never had to apply them to their industries.
* Can LNI help with fit testing?
* How do we pay for N95 masks and fit testing?
* The worst case would be if we order different kinds of masks every time we order, because you have to do different fit testing for each kind. Need consistency in ordering and need to find most available brand and stick with it.
* Will the Provider Relief Fund cover N-95 purchases?
* Can we enlist the National Guard for help?
* Please extend the FMAP for at least another quarter.

ACTION ITEM: Bill to connect with Brian at LNI for discussion on options.

ACTION ITEM: DSHS has a list of vendors for fit testing that we will share with the group. We also need to build a resource here that works for all providers, including availability of brands and consistency in ordering the same brand, fit testing availability and best practices.

ACTION ITEM: DSHS to look into whether Provider Relief Fund is available for mask purchases.

ACTION ITEM: DSHS to look into whether the National Guard is an available resource.

ACTION ITEM: DSHS to respond as to whether FMAP can be extended.

**Re-opening Facilities Update:**

* We are getting a lot of questions about residents returning to facilities from the community and the 14-day quarantine. Everyone seems to be implementing it differently.
* RCS is updating the policy and will release a Dear Provider letter shortly
* Yes, please keep us informed of changes as they happen. We were not aware.
* Also, please put together something addressing the outdoor visits. There is confusion around the positive case count and who can still participate in outdoor visits.
* LHJs are being added to this group as well.

ACTION ITEM: RCS to update and send Dear Provider letter.

**Testing:**

* CMS testing requirements have been released – the rules are in affect today
* Requirements for frequency of testing varies based on prevalence in each area.
* Testing is focused toward staff, volunteers and contractors. Residents with consent are optional
* Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) test site waiver
* Hospital based facilities have been using hospital labs so they aren’t eligible for the CLIA waiver – RCS is working with them to address this
* RCS is working with DOH on how the reporting system will work – we currently have no reporting system for testing.
* Nursing facilities (Medical directors) can write an order for testing

ACTION ITEM: Charissa to send info on collection kits

**Next meeting:**

* PPE Tiering
* N95 mask availability and fit testing continued discussion
* Overall Prevalence testing