



MEMORANDUM

To: All DDA Stakeholders
From: Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary *Bernard Simons*
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Subject: Meaningful Day Services Reopening Framework
Date: August 12, 2020

NOTE: Please inform appropriate staff members of the contents of this memorandum.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has continued to engage stakeholders and providers on considerations for a Meaningful Day Services Reopening Framework. The discussions have been robust, and we all have learned so much from each other. Thank you all for your time and efforts as we continue to deal with this health emergency and focus on keeping the people we support, staff, and families as healthy and safe as possible. Below is a brief overview of all the great work that has taken place during the last month and a copy of the DDA's Meaningful Day Services Reopening Framework based on our Regional Director Provider Meetings.

What has happened?

- The DDA Regional Directors have facilitated regional Reopening Committee meetings with providers, in order to collaborate, share information and resources, and hear directly from them on what additional support was needed in order to effectively create their individual provider reopening plans. Reopening Committee meeting notes are available to view on DDA's website.
- The DDA continues to partner with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDS). See the NASDDS Reopening Packet at <https://custom.cvent.com/440385a26d4140e383714c52736b20b1/files/event/357a2fd80501490796d01958f1e06a08/10c6074229974f79bb4edfdd81a38de6.pdf>.
- The DDA continues to engage in discussions and collaboration with local Centers for Disease Control (CDC) subject matter experts, Public Health experts, and the DD Coalition during this pandemic.
- The DDA continues to have by-weekly webcast with our stakeholders and guest speakers. One of our providers and authors of the American Academy of Developmental

Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) shared that there needs to be clear guidelines applied nationally to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. To address this urgent need, the AADMD develop a white paper that is researched informed and evidence based. See the below link for further information <https://www.aadmd.org/white-paper>

Framework Consideration for Reopening

Based on the previously outlined discussions, the DDA has developed a Meaningful Day Services Reopening Framework, organized through the lenses of: Safety, Capacity, Equity, Data, Collaboration and Equity. The framework is intended to be used in combination with person-centered planning.

The framework has been reviewed by Jeffrey S. Woolford, MD, MPH, MBA, who is the Director of Community Initiatives Testing Task Force and is leading all non-regulatory COVID-19 matters involving nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and other congregate living settings; David Blythe, MD, MPH, who is the State Epidemiologist and Director in the Office of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau to ensure all guidance aligns with CDC guidance; and Cliff Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH, who is the Director, Environmental Health Bureau, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration.

The framework provides a few examples of how providers are utilizing virtual communication options to provide supports and services to individuals in creative and innovative ways while maintaining the health and safety of individuals and their staff. The DDA encourages all providers to consider how service delivery models are changing, how technology may be leveraged, and what innovations are possible to support people.

The documentation and sources referenced in the framework guidance are subject to change. The Meaningful Day programs responsible for implementation and monitoring of these guidelines are required to adhere to all applicable local, State and federal requirements, remain well-informed with any relevant updates and to incorporate these, as needed, into operating practices and site-specific Safety Plans. Each Meaningful Day program should implement additional precautions and/or increased restrictions necessary to meet program specific and individual specific needs.

We encourage DDA Providers to utilize the framework as a guide when creating your individual reopening plans. If you have questions or concerns related to the framework or reopening considerations, please contact your DDA Regional Director.

cc: Patricia Sastoque, Director of Programs
Valerie Roddy, Director of Fiscal and Operations
Marlena Hutchinson, Director, Office of Long-Term Services and Supports
Regional Directors and DDA Staff