

CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUS REPORT

JULY 2020

Early Intervention

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) released guidance to support Early Intervention programs as they begin planning for safely re-establishing in-person Early Intervention services. While Tele-Intervention is still considered an effective strategy to deliver services, in-person visits are permitted during the reopening of Pennsylvania. The Early Intervention Coordinator is working closely with providers to ensure that expectations for in-person services are consistently communicated with families. In addition, Early Intervention providers must communicate their agency policy regarding screening, liability waivers and use of masks to the Early Intervention Coordinator for review. It will be imperative that all EI staff, service coordinators, and service providers understand the policies so that they can be communicated with families in a consistent manner.

Developmental Services

The Developmental Services department has been working closely with providers of Community Participation Supports (CPS) to develop plans for the reopening of their CPS programs. All of the reopening plans are expected to follow the guidelines offered by the CDC, PA DOH, and ODP. Administrative Entity staff participated in virtual tours of programs to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Most programs reopened at approximately 40-50% capacity. Many individuals returned to program, while others are enjoying the time off and opted not to return at this time.

The DS department successfully completed the Fiscal Year Renewal process for 2020-2021. With Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties moving into the green phase of reopening, there have been some updates to service delivery and procedures. Support Coordinators continue to complete monitoring appointments remotely, but have the option to complete face to face visits at the individual's request. Support Coordinators are also able to complete a face to face visit if the health and safety of an individual is in question. The department has developed a policy to ensure the health and safety of both individuals and staff should a face to face visit be necessary. In addition, the Provider Qualification process and face to face intakes for the Administrative Entity have been reinstated. The Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) process has not yet been reinstated, however an interim process is being developed and is expected to begin in September.

The department transitioned one individual from base funding to a Community Living Waiver to support their service needs. DS has seen an increase in the number of individuals returning to

work now that counties are starting to reopen. In the month of June, the Administrative Entity completed three intakes for individuals requesting services through the Office of Developmental Programs.

Personnel

The two vacant Support Coordinator positions in Monroe County have been filled. The individuals identified to fill these positions have start dates of late July/early August. Nicole Polk has been promoted to Intake and Eligibility Coordinator, with a start date of July 13, 2020. This leaves the SC Supervisor in Carbon County vacant. There was one internal applicant and an interview has been scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Trautman

DS Deputy Administrator