

SUBJECT: December 30, 2020 DDD Communication

Happy New Year! I know many of us can't wait to put 2020 in the rearview mirror. But honestly, while the past year has been rife with challenges and uncertainty, I will say that I have been both inspired and grateful for the way that our community and SODCs systems have responded to the pandemic. I also believe we have learned lessons that will serve us well into the future. Thank you for all each of you do.

COVID INCREASES EXTENDED

The Division sent notice last week that we are able to extend the temporary COVID-19 rate increases allowed for through our Appendix K until its expiration on January 26, 2021. We are hopeful, in working with HFS, that we will be able to extend our Appendix K and will communicate in January further extensions. As a reminder:

- The 5% rate increase to the 60D Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) will continue through January 26, 2021.
- The 15% rate increase for CDS providers (31U/31C) will continue through January 26, 2021.
- All policy amendments will be maintained through January 26, 2021.
- At Home Day Program (37U) will continue to be available, without prior approval, for all CILA residents through June 30, 2021.

You can find the notice here: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=129900>

HFS PROVIDER NOTICES

HFS has recently released two Provider Notices of interest. The first is additional guidance for ICF/DDs that are providing their own day services. Please review. The second is an update on the Electronic Visit Verification process and timeline. As a reminder, EVV will specifically impact PSWs in the HBS program. It does not impact any other DD waiver service providers.

You can find both notices here:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/default.aspx>

You can find further EVV information here:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/Pages/default.aspx> (located under "Other Essential Resources" on the Medical Providers page)

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/Pages/ElectronicVisitVerification.aspx> (Webpage)

NEW CANTS PROCEDURES

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has issued an important notice regarding procedural updates regarding the CANTS background checks. Effective January 1st, 2021: All CFS689 (CANTS) forms not submitted via email will be returned unprocessed to the submitting agency. CFS689 forms will only be accepted electronically, via their dedicated email address:

DCFS.689Background@Illinois.gov

Please note:

- CANTS forms must be sent as an attachment with no encryption. Multiple forms (up to 20) can be submitted in 1 PDF document.
- If there is no DCFS history to be reported, you will receive your CFS689 form back via email, with the applied "NO PRIORS" clearance stamp. If there is a POSITIVE HIT, you will receive an email notifying you that your results will be returned via standard mail or fax.

- DCFS processing time fluctuates greatly throughout the year as it is based on the number of forms received. Do NOT resubmit your request as this causes additional delays.
- As a reminder, DSPs can work in CILAs while they await CANTS results.

DIVISION CONTACTS

Reimbursement & Rates Issues

As has been previously reported, George Bengal in BRPS is retiring (but coming back on contract). With that being said, you can always reach out to the following staff who handle the specific areas outlined below:

Diane Garbin	CILA Rates.	217-782-6502 Diane.Garbin@illinois.gov
Kim Kavanagh	POS/HBS Rates.	217-557-6451 Kim.Kavanagh@illinois.gov
Erica Rivera	ICFDD Rates.	217-558-4315 Erica.Rivera@illinois.gov

Regions Issues

In Maureen Haugh-Stover's absence (her last day is 1/15/21 but she will be helping with the transition through 1/30/21) you should reach out to Kathy Ward. However, Regions staff are still able to assist with the handling of all waiver service requests, individual/family inquiries, provider inquiries and ISC issues. Here is their contact information and counties of focus for each staff member:

Dorothy Schwartzkopf	Covers the North Central Region. Counties: Bureau, Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Putnam, Tazewell, Vermillion, and Woodford.	217-557-8285 Dorothy.Schwartzkopf@illinois.gov
Tameka White	Covers the North Central Region. Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Mercer, McDonough, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, and Warren.	217-524-8966 Tameka.White@illinois.gov
Nichole Bolton	Covers the Central Region.	217-524-2521

	Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Piatt, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby.	Nichole.Bolton@Illinois.gov
Kevin Byrd	Covers the Northwest Region. Counties: Boone, Carroll, Dekalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago.	217-524-2517 Kevin.Byrd@illinois.gov
Jessica Link	Covers the Southern Region. Counties: Alexander, Bond, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Edwards, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson.	217-782-0385 Jessica.D.Link@illinois.gov
Roberta Driver	Covers the Southern Region. Counties: Madison and St. Clair.	217-782-5230 Roberta.Driver@illinois.gov
Betty Green	Covers the North Suburban Region. Counties: Suburban Cook and Lake.	708-283-3407 Betty.A.Green@illinois.gov
LaShawnta' Milton	Covers the North Suburban Region. Counties: DuPage, Kane and Kendal.	312-814-2021 LaShawnta.Milton@illinois.gov
Tammie Benjamin-Asare	Covers the City of Chicago Region. Counties: Cook (South of Madison, i.e., South side of Chicago).	847-742-1040 x2807 Tammie.Benjamin-Asare@illinois.gov
Audrey Harris-Palmer	Covers the City of Chicago Region.	312-814-2019

	Counties: Cook (North of Madison, i.e., North side of Chicago).	Audrey.Harris-Palmer@illinois.gov
Bernice Gray	Covers the South Suburban Region. Counties: Service providers A-L in Suburban Cook, Will, Kankakee and Grundy.	312-814-8335 Bernice.Gray@illinois.gov
Bernice O'Brien	Covers the South Suburban Region. Counties: Service providers M-Z in Suburban Cook, Will, Kankakee and Grundy.	708-283-3408 Bernice.Obrien@illinois.gov

Thank you for all you do. Happy New Year!

Warmly,
Allison