



Region V Services

Region V Services
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Memo to : Region V Services Governing Board, Advisory Committee,
all stakeholders

From : Matt Kasik, Executive Director

Date : April 30, 2019

Re : **MAY Director's Report**

The mission of Region V Services is to provide desired education and supports that promote relationships within community and lessen reliance upon agency services.

COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world in profound and devastating ways. Region V Services has met this challenge, as our primary focus has been the safety and wellbeing of the individuals we support. Our staff has shown perseverance and creativity considering these unprecedented times.

What we have done:

- Day service centers have been closed. There are only limited cases where staff or individuals supported are in the day service centers. In those situations, group size has been below 10 individuals.
- Supports and day programming has been provided in alternate settings, mostly in-homes. This has been helped by CMS approval of Appendix K which allows for day supports to occur in alternate locations.
- Staffing plans that limit the number of staff that go in-and-out of residences where individuals are supported.
- RVS residences and offices have been closed to visitors to eliminate exposure.
- Over 2000 cloth masks have been either sourced or made by the Region to help protect both individuals supported and staff.

Serving individuals with developmental disabilities

Counties: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, York

- PPE has been secured for the region including N95 masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, and surgical masks.
- Protocols have been developed for the event that someone contracts COVID-19. These include isolating individuals supported and staff, as well PPE protocols that will keep individuals safe while working with someone with COVID-19.

These measures, in addition to taking universal hygiene and CDC recommended precautions, have kept us safe thus far. We will continue these precautions for the foreseeable future with no timeline established for re-opening day service centers or relaxing guidelines. Planning is underway for the safe reopening of our day service centers, with the earliest possible target date being June 1, 2020.

Employment

COVID-19 has impacted employment for the individuals we support. To date, approximately 160 individuals have been either terminated or laid off from their jobs due to the pandemic. This is decrease of roughly two-thirds of our workforce. We are hopeful that this is temporary and that these jobs come back at some point in the future as the virus is contained.

Financial Update

As of February 29, 2020:

Revenue:	\$31,992,215
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>\$32,113,650</u>
Net Income (Loss):	(\$121,435)

Losses were expected in January and February due to a variety of issues. The most significant drivers were a 5-week pay period in January, salary scale increases of 10%, and a 29-day billing period in February. Prior to COVID-19, we felt comfortable about these losses and were confident that we would end the year OK.

COVID-19 did have an impact on our revenues. Day services closing, as well as individuals being taken out of our services to keep them safe all resulted in less revenue. However, our state officials with the Department of Developmental Disabilities have done a great job of developing and working with CMS to approve

Appendix K. This amendment to our Medicaid Waivers allows for day services to occur in alternate locations. Additionally, a rate increase of 15% was approved between March 6 and September 6, 2020 to help offset the costs of additional overtime in homes and for the purchase of additional safety supplies (PPE) to help keep individuals safe. Appendix K also allows for retainer payments that help supplement losses. Overall, these changes are necessary for our viability and will help us through this pandemic. We will continue to monitor our revenue and expenditures closely through this time.

Legislative Update

Legislature is currently in recess until conditions allow for the remaining 17-days of the session to be held. Will continue to monitor.

Dave Merrill

Dave Merrill retired from Region V Services with his last day being April 17th. Beings the circumstances didn't allow for a large retirement party, we did the next best thing: Retirement via Zoom. Over 100 attendees connected digitally to Dave's retirement party. A retrospective video of Dave's 37-year career was shared as well as stories, well wishing, and of course a few songs. Dave's leadership will forever be ingrained within Region V Services, as he helped to make this organization a premier provider to those we support. Thank you, Dave, for all that you have done and given to Region V Services. I wish you nothing but the best as you begin on this new chapter of your life.