



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: DMHAS Private Non-Profit Providers

From: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.

Date: October 5, 2020

Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Provider Update #21

Over the summer, DMHAS, like the state of Connecticut, saw declining COVID rates and experienced a period of stability related to our COVID response. However, Governor Lamont has acknowledged that certain indicators show that cases, case rates, and COVID-related hospitalizations are slowly increasing. We must all remain vigilant and continue our efforts to prepare for a possible second wave. This communication contains information regarding resources that may be beneficial to providers or to the clients you serve. Thank you for all you are doing to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Behavioral Health Assistance Program

DMHAS initiated a program at the beginning of August to assist provider staff with the costs of co-pays and deductibles associated with behavioral health treatment services. All individuals currently employed by DMHAS-funded private, non-profit behavioral health providers who are receiving outpatient behavioral health treatment may request a voucher to assist with payment of insurance co-pays or deductibles associated with that care. The assistance is limited to \$500 per individual. For more detailed information about the program and how to secure a voucher for it, please see the link below:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/COVID-19/Resources/Provider-Alert---COVID-19-BHP-grant.pdf>

CCP and SAMHSA COVID Initiatives

DMHAS has received funding to assist those who have been impacted by COVID-19. One program is the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP). Two phases of this grant will provide DMHAS with funding to offer crisis counseling services for senior citizens in congregate care setting, persons experiencing homelessness and Ministerial Health Fellowship will be hiring 12 crisis counselors to support communities in urban areas that include minorities and low-economic status groups significantly impacted by COVID-19.

For more information about this program, please use the link below:

<https://ctstronger.org/coach>

SAMHSA funded the COVID-19 Behavioral Health Response and Assistance (Connecticut COBHRA) which will support a number of activities focused on improving the health outcomes of those individuals affected by COVID-19 including:

- purchasing telehealth equipment for DMHAS providers and Department of Correction (DOC) healthcare practitioners;
- enhancing eight DMHAS-funded mobile crisis teams with additional clinicians;
- providing staffing to a new statewide call center for adult crisis calls at United Way 2-1-1;
- expanding the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Family Based Recovery (FBR) services for youth and their families;

The grant will also increase services for victims of intimate partner violence and will support the behavioral health needs of healthcare practitioners. A final component of the grant would provide support to employee assistance programs at DMHAS-funded agencies. For further information about this program please contact Julianne Giard at julienne.giard@ct.gov .

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

DMHAS continues to receive additional shipment of PPE's. If your agency needs additional PPE, please request an order form by sending an email to lauren.siembab@ct.gov. We will try to accommodate requests based on what we have received.

Support Resources for Persons Needing to Isolate or Self Quarantine

Governor Lamont recently announced new resources to assist those individuals who may need to isolate or self-quarantine due to COVID-19. The resources are designed to support individuals who are asked to isolate or quarantine due to a positive test result. These resources can assist essential workers who may require additional assistance such as housing support, food assistance, and cash card. More information regarding these resources can be accessed at the following link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/09-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-New-Programs-To-Support-Those-Who-Need-To-Isolate-or-Self-Quarantine>

Federal Provider Relief Funding

The Trump Administration recently announced that they were making 20 billion for provider relief funding. The funding applies to behavioral healthcare and other healthcare providers that have incurred financial losses due to COVID-19 or have incurred changes in operating expenses due to the virus. Providers who previously received these funds are eligible to apply again. Providers may begin to apply for the funds beginning today, October 5th. More information regarding the program can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/index.html>

You and your staff have contributed greatly to our efforts to manage the virus. I hope that you and your staff may be able to utilize the supports described in this memo. I want to thank you again for all that you have done and are continuing to do. I also ask that you remain vigilant so we can continue to manage the pandemic. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at Miriam.Delphin-Rittmon@ct.gov or Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta via email at Nancy.Navarretta@ct.gov