March 16, 2020

To: all Service Providers

From: Kim Nash

 Director of Community Services

Re: COVID-19 Update

Dear Service Providers,

Redwood Coast Regional Center wants to keep you informed of all information and developments that relate the novel corona virus, COVID-19. Please check you emails, the RCRC website, and the RCRC Facebook page for up to the minute updates.

RCRC has implemented the following internal efforts

1. RCRC has an internal COVID-19 work group to address any issues or developments as they happen.
2. Large gatherings are cancelled through the end of March in an effort to keep people well and will look into use of remote participation. RCRC is using social distancing as recommended by California Department of Public Health guidance.
3. RCRC supports all services to remain open and providing services. Residential Support Providers need your help to remain open and/or provide services as you can. Currently, Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, ICFs, Specialized Residential Services, Elder Residential Services have received guidance to stay home and to only allow outing for specific reasons such as health care appointments, pharmacy needs, grocery needs. Visitors are not being allowed for these residential services.

DDS has implemented the following:

1. **A State of Emergency** is in effect as of March 4, 2020. Service providers are allowed to bill for absences due to the COVID-19. The State of Emergency also allows providers to bill for absences, “in excess of the average number of absences during the 12 months prior”.
2. **Early Start In-Person** – may be waived due to concern about COVID-19 for determination of eligibility or service coordination. Evaluation and assessment activities may be conducted by remote electronic communications. Parents or Guardians may request this and the regional center will send a letter to the family/Guardian confirming the family’s request.
3. **Early Start Remote Services** – In-Person services may be waived at the request of the family/guardian due to COVID-19 concerns. These services may be provided by remote electronic communication upon the family/guardian’s request and will be confirmed in a letter to the family/guardian.
4. **Lanterman Act In-Person Meetings** – The requirements for In-Person IPP or other meetings related to delivery of services may be waived upon request of the individual, individual’s representative or conservator due to concerns of COVID-19. A follow-up letter will be sent to the individual/representative/conservator to confirm this request.
5. **Health and Safety Waiver Exemptions** – DDS has delegated to regional center Executive Directors to grant rate adjustments for residential services and/or supplemental services in residential settings to protect individual’s health and safety as a result of outbreak of COVID-19 outbreaks.

**This remains in effect for 30 days unless extended by the Director of DDS.**

**To read the entire State of Emergency Plan, please click on the link below:**

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-State-of-Emergency-Statewide-3-12-20.pdf>