



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

COVID-19 Update

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 03/18/2020

DDD is continuing to implement measures necessary to reduce exposure and protect the health and safety of members, providers and DDD staff. DDD is providing these updates as a follow up to the information shared in [yesterday's vendor announcement](#):

Program Review Committee

Beginning Thursday, March 19, 2020, all scheduled PRC meetings will take place through Paper Review. This means the Behavior Treatment Plan will be reviewed by the member's team telephonically. Each plan will have careful consideration of the requirements and teaching methodology. When the committee has completed the review, the Disposition with Recommendations/Approvals will be sent to the Qualified Vendor/Provider and Support Coordinator. If you would like to request a Full Review rather than a Paper Review, please contact your District PRC Chair (see below) to request a telephonic Full Review.

If there is an emergency review request, please send the request to your District PRC Chair and the DDD Behavioral Health Administration at dddbhadministration@azdes.gov.

District Central PRC Chair: DDDCentralRegionPRC@azdes.gov

District East PRC Chair: DDDEastRegionPRC@azdes.gov

District North PRC Chair: DDDNorthPRC@azdes.gov

District South PRC Chair: DDD2PRC@azdes.gov

District West PRC Chair: DDDWestPRC@azdes.gov

CPR/First Aid

Effective immediately, all current employees who have expired certifications or certifications that will expire, will be granted an exception for 90 days from expiration. The agency is responsible for tracking these employees and must reevaluate regularly. DDD is currently conducting research on what agencies provide nationally recognized online CPR/First Aid training. In addition we are also asking the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) to provide any nationwide industry standards currently in place for online CPR/First Aid training. In the event that we are able to provide a list of approved online CPR/First Aid providers, we will provide parameters by which an online course can be used. For now, any newly hired employees that are not currently certified in CPR/First Aid, must become certified using the standards outlined in the QVA before providing services alone.

Prevention and Support (P and S)

DDD has temporarily adjusted the expectations for Prevention and Support training. Effective immediately, only new employees that are being assigned to members with Behavior Treatment Plans (in any setting), Functional Behavioral Assessments and/or who are receiving behavioral health treatment for a challenging behavior that may require physical intervention, must be certified in Prevention and Support before working with the member. The decision to waive this training must be well documented by your agency. Those employees who are currently certified in Prevention and Support but have expired or are going to expire, will be granted a 90 day extension. The agency is responsible for tracking these employees and must reevaluate regularly.

Article 9

DDD is moving forward with conducting webinar style A9 training, with a live instructor. Providers must take attendance at the beginning of each online training session and at the end. Testing must be conducted via telephone and the agency is required to record and maintain records. The expectation to provide rosters to the statewide training mailbox will not change.

Telehealth

DDD is collaborating and working closely with AHCCCS on the possibility of providing early childhood specialized habilitation and habilitation with music therapy via telehealth. Billing guidance will be provided in the event this service can be provided using telehealth.

Additional Questions

We are aware that this does not answer all of your questions, and we are diligently working towards implementing as many measures as possible to ensure the best outcomes for DDD members, their families, and the professional in our system. We are currently exploring emergency funding opportunities during this time period and will keep you posted as we have more concrete information to share.

Beginning tomorrow, we will be publishing a page on the DDD website that tracks all of the most up to date actions that DDD is taking. It will also be a more readily available resource for our members and families as they seek the most up to date information and resources.

Thank you for your incredible dedication during this challenging time period.

Zane Garcia Ramadan
Interim Assistant Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities