Return to I/DD Services Checklist

Care Design NY supports individuals and families in advocating for a safe, effective re-opening of intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) services following the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through numerous forums with individuals, families, and self-advocates, the following "checklist" of considerations and questions were developed to guide conversations with providers and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) as services begin to re-open on a regional level.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention

○ What PPE will my loved one's staff be using, both during and after the COVID-19 emergency?

○ What is the agency's policy on PPE for individuals both during and after COVID-19?

○ Do my loved one's staff work at other agencies besides this one?

○ What are the testing protocols for both individuals and staff?

○ In a typical day, on average, how many people will be working with my loved one?

○ How does the agency monitor staff exposures to COVID-19 within my loved one's program?

○ How will the agency inform me about staff or participant COVID-19 diagnosis?

Health Risk of Individuals

○ Think about health risks individuals may have that could make them more vulnerable to infectious disease.

○ Consider speaking with your loved one's health care practitioner regarding COVID-19 risk levels.

○ Consider your loved one's ability to social distance and/or wear a mask.

○ If your loved one lives with you, are there other people at high risk of serious disease also living in the house?

Returning to Programs

○ How is being isolated affecting your loved one's emotional state and is it causing behavioral issues? If so, the Care Manager should be engaged to assist is identifying needed supports.

○ Is your loved one losing skills from being out of their routine? If so, Care Manager should be engaged to assist is identifying needed supports.

○ Discuss with provider/FI as to which programs your loved one feels comfortable returning to and when.

○ How will transportation to/from programs be handled?

○ Will there be changes in the program?

○ Will there be changes to the number of people participating in the program?

○ How will day-to-day activities be modified, including mealtime?

○ If an individual does not return to the program, will he/she lose their place?