



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754

SITUATION REPORT DATE: MARCH 24, 2020

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. Message from State Director Poole:

The current situation is something that no one created and no one has ever had to deal with. This is not a county issue, a state issue, a country issue-it is a global issue. Everyone from the President to the Governor to the manager at the local grocery store is doing the very best they can and we will get through this.

During our Commission meeting and the phone call on Friday, I mentioned that DHHS had informed me that they would be addressing the EI virtual family training issue in priority order. I was given specific information that EI was in the cue to be addressed this past weekend. Please note that they have had other issues to make decisions on in addition to our issues. DME, pediatricians and mental health – to name a few. I have been assured that it will be addressed. Information changes quickly so when it changes, I said that I would tell you – and I am doing just that.

Please note that the following information will be out this week:

1. Orientation and training guidance to facilitate training in this environment- get people through orientation and out to work quicker and safer.
2. We will be issuing provisional licenses for programs with a signed attestation by the Executive Director. The form is under construction and will be sent out for providers to look over – quickly. We will take all comments under advisement.

What we do in our business is to stay calm, manage day to day, encourage our staff and take care of our people. We will stay on top of the latest news, legislation and protocols and do the very best we can to keep information flowing and adjust our requirements accordingly.

Call if you need guidance on decisions we are here for you, we will continue to send out info in the situation reports and the calls.

Mary

II. CMS Suspends Survey Activities: ([Click Here](#))

Per CMS Memo QSO-20-20-All, dated 3/23/20, for the next three weeks beginning March 20, 2020, standard surveys will not be authorized for all provider types (including ICF/IIDs). This includes the life safety code and Emergency Preparedness elements of those standard surveys.

III. Appendix K Update:

DHHS and DDSN continue to work to draft a waiver Appendix K in order to temporarily lift, delay or change some requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information will be shared in the near future as this nears the final stages.

IV. SC Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Provider Alert:

- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Impact Update: ([Click Here](#))
- Coronavirus Preparation, Response, Resources & Updates: ([Click Here](#))

DDSN continues to engage DHHS regarding acceptable alternatives to deliver in person family instruction/special instruction. The spread of COVID-19 is significantly limiting the delivery of this important service and both state agencies are working collaboratively to establish interim guidance during this state of emergency.

V. Background Checks:

DDSN verified that both the SLED Criminal checks and DSS checks are still being processed, respectively, by these agencies during the State of Emergency. As always both checks are required. The SLED check is mandatory for a new hire to begin work. If a delay develops in the DSS registry system, communicate such using eoc@ddsn.sc.gov.

VI. SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) Resources:

All public information related to COVID-19 is now available at scemd.org and in the SC Emergency Manager mobile app, which is in “Emergency Mode.” Information includes the continually updated information from DHEC, links to the CDC, the state Department of Insurance, links to telehealth services, school information. The homepage of scemd.org will be updated as new information becomes available.

VII. Interim Guidance for Case Management Providers: ([Click Here](#))

VIII. Updated List of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Vendors: ([Click Here](#))

IX. April 1st Galasso Training Session Rescheduled

In an abundance of caution, we have decided to reschedule the April 1st training Session to May 7th. Although we were offered an option to continue the session virtually on April 1st, we believe that this training contains very helpful information and the ability to offer an in-person opportunity provides a better learning experience.