

UCEDD Directors Meeting

January 27th 4-6pm ET

Breakout Room Notes

Breakout Room Topic:

Sustaining the Course— Staying Vigilant in COVID-19 Mitigation Behaviors (Second Breakout)

What You're Seeing:

- There is a new understanding around care management and 24/7 caregiving- specifically, on health side/the demands of caregiving.
 - Pandemic is highlighting the ineffectiveness and inefficiencies related to care management, more apparent now because people are more disconnected.
 - There is also a lot of heightened feelings, families feel vulnerable in terms of what happens if no longer there to provide support.
- People are seeing importance of Medicaid (questions around if flexibilities created will continue).
- Seeing diagnostic overshadowing- problem is that a lot of issues are already misunderstood within IDD population and there is uncertainty around the impact of COVID-19 on this already existing problem.
- There is the issue of broadband access everywhere.
 - Schools have already somewhat dealt with broadband issues as they push towards at home instruction but still seeing lots of flaws and issues.

What You're Doing:

- People have adjusted to working from home and not in an office (e.g. Atlanta traffic makes people not want to go back to commuting, Georgetown is moving to a smaller office and will need to adjust).
 - Trying to figure out new workflow and thinking about how to reintegrate staff.
 - Also thinking about variability in terms of when people can access the vaccine.
- Opportunity to use new virtual environment as a way to increase disability employment.
- MTlooking at broadband access.
 - Digital literacy is a huge issue; even if people have a machine that does not mean they can use it for telehealth adequately. There is the need for training.
- Issues writing proposals- hard to predict in terms of virtual, hybrid, in-person. Need to address COVID-19 but also thinking about how to build capacity for post pandemic work.

What Next?

- Continue to build on relationships across sectors.
 - For example, pandemic has provided an opportunity for relationship building with health departments. While there has been communication between sectors before, there is now a better understanding of how to work together.
- Addressing digital competence and the digital divide.
 - Looking at how to keep digitalizing the service system and how to address the broader equity issue.
- Thinking about what we *want* to go back to.
 - Trying to use this opportunity to push forward on services truly centered around the individual vs congregate work programs.
- Figuring out if offices are going back, people are asking why do we have to come back?
 - Strategically, need to think about how to continue this work in different ways and changing community expectations in terms of how life now is.
- Figure out the future of CMS in terms of different kind of direction e.g. less restrictive or not.
 - Also worry about what the future will look like and consequences from lack of access to care e.g. nutritional deprivation, new cohorts of LBW babies, kids less prepared for school because compromised development, etc.
- Looking at the data on the impact of COVID-19 on people with IDD (generally some data available but varies by state).
 - Currently, there is very little understanding around this. Thinking about UCEDD role in this.
 - Questions around data include evidence that COVID-19 effects neurological functioning, 'long haulers', and asymptomatic people.
 - Also, need to consider long-term what this will mean in terms of healthcare and daily functioning.
- Hopeful this work will lead to recognition of what network has to offer!