



## **Juvenile Court Judges' Commission**

### **Proposed Questions to Residential Providers Regarding Established Protocols for Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**1. Does your facility have a COVID -19 Operational Response Plan or Protocol? YES.**

**If yes, please provide a copy. See Attachment #1.**

**2. Has your facility plan been reviewed by your licensing agency and or local County DOH? YES.**

**If yes, please elaborate.**

Our Covid-19 Response Plan has been shared with DHS, our Medical Director, Dr. Mills, and our hospital partner, Excelsa Health Latrobe.

**3. Do you have daily testing of staff and youth for symptoms of COVID-19? YES.**

**If yes, please describe or provide documentation of protocol.**

We are aware that the virus is transmitted like the common flu virus and can be eliminated with good cleaning and personal hygiene practices. We have increased our focus on hand washing, unit cleanliness, and disinfecting the environment. We take the temperature of our youth daily and monitor them closely for any symptoms. We do the same with our staff. Prior to starting their work day, all of our staff go through a screening process by having their temperature taken and answering a few basic health related questions before they are cleared.

Please see Attachment #2 (Youth) and Attachment #3 (Staff).

**4. Do you have screening protocols in place for staff and visitors coming to the program? YES.**

**If yes, please describe or provide documentation of protocol:**

We have minimized any outside visitors on campus. However, any outside visitors that do come on campus are required to check in at our Administrative Building and are required to go through our screening process. It mirrors the staff process listed above. Anyone who would not pass the screening process would be asked to leave the campus and reschedule for another time.

**5. Do you have adequate access to medical personnel on site i.e. nurses, doctors, PA's? NO.**

**Please elaborate:**

Outside In is serviced by our Medical Director, Dr. Mills, and our local hospital, Excelsa Health in Latrobe. We do not employ medical personnel on site.

**6. Do you have adequate disinfectant and hygiene protocols in place consistent?**

**with the DOH communication of 4-4-20? YES.**

**Please elaborate.**

We have an adequate supply of hygiene products and disinfectant at this time. Should the situation intensify and require additional products, we would utilize an outside agency to assist with any cleaning needs.

**7. Have you been able to access enough PPE for your staff and youth? YES.**

**Please elaborate:**

We have sufficient amount of PPE supplies on our campus currently. However, depending on the severity of the virus spreading and/or additional recommendations by the CDC or PA DOH, additional PPE could be needed.

**8. Are you practicing social distancing? YES.**

**Please explain or provide documentation of protocol:**

As much as possible, we have worked to practice social distancing across our agency. We have kept our cabins separated and have spread the youth out during groups, activities, education, and meals. We utilize video conferencing for counseling sessions, as well as, for family visitation or county interactions.

**9. Does your facility have access to COVID-19 testing? YES.**

**If yes, please explain or provide documentation of protocol.**

In the event testing would be needed, we follow the guidelines set for by the PA DOH and would work through our Medical Director, Dr. Mills, and our local hospital, Excela Health of Latrobe, PA.

**10. Have you had staff that tested positive for the COVID-19? NO.**

**What are your protocols for staff that test positive?**

In the event that a staff tests positive for COVID-19, we would follow all guidance provided by the CDC and the PA DOH. The staff would be removed from the campus and would be required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. They would not be able to return to work until the guidelines have been met.

**11. Describe your protocols for the notification of county agency referral sources and families should a staff test positive for COVID-19:**

In the event that a staff tests positive for COVID-19, we would notify the families of the youth in our care, the county staff, and any other pertinent stakeholders via telephone immediately. We would follow all protocols mentioned above. We would notify the PA DOH as well.

**12. Do you currently have youth in your program who have tested positive for COVID-19? NO.**

**What are your protocols for youth who test positive, including ability to quarantine?**

In the event that a youth tests positive for COVID-19, we would follow our COVID-19 Response Plan (Attachment #1) and Infectious Disease Control protocols (Attachment #4). We would be

able to provide individual (to an extent) and whole unit quarantine depending on the specific circumstances.

**13. Describe your protocols for the notification of referral sources and families should a youth test positive for COVID-19:**

In the event that a youth tests positive for COVID-19, we would notify the family of the youth, as well as, the families of the other youth in our care, the county staff, and any other pertinent stakeholders via telephone immediately. We would follow all protocols mentioned above. We would notify the PA DOH and would complete a HCSIS report as required.

**14. Do you have provisional staffing plan in place accounting for anticipated staff absences or vacancies? YES.**

**If yes, please elaborate:**

We have plans in place to cover staffing vacancies should the need arise. We would utilize on-call staff, supervisors, and administrators to fill shifts. Overtime would be offered as well. Additionally, we have staff identified to provide coverage in the event of a quarantine.

**15. Are you experiencing difficulties in providing adequate staffing? NO.**

**If yes, please elaborate. N/A**

**16. Has your referral and admissions practices changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? YES.**

**If yes, please elaborate.**

Our Admissions Department is currently taking referrals and conducting intake interviews for our residential facilities. The interviews are conducted via telephone at this time. The clinical team is meeting to review all referrals for appropriateness as per our normal protocol. We are accepting only those youth that have been in a detention/shelter (that has not been infected) for at least 7-14 days with no symptoms of the virus. We are also taking their temperature prior to transfer to our facility as an added precaution.

**17. Has your daily programming been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? YES.**

**Please elaborate.**

We have made several changes in our daily programming due to the onset of the pandemic. We have practiced social distancing, followed the safety precautions set forth by the CDC and PA DOH, modified our educational component, and have altered our daily schedule. We have increased our use of video conferencing for visits and have adjusted our admissions process.

**18. Are youth in your care attending school at the present time? YES**

**Please elaborate.**

Outside In continues to offer educational activities through the Transitional Skills Center. Each teacher is preparing enrichment and remediation activities for students based on their skill levels. Additionally, we will be handing items out daily for students to work on (many schools are mailing these types of items home to students). We will be keeping all IEPs up-to-date and all paperwork in regards to IEPs will be current. Students with IEPs will receive enrichment activities on their level, with accommodations, as needed.

**19. Are youth able to connect with probation staff via videoconferencing upon short notice?**  
YES.

**Please elaborate.**

We have utilized a variety of video conferencing methods to connect probation staff with their youth including ZOOM, Skype, and WebEx.

**19. Are parents able to connect more frequently with youth via telephone and/or videoconference technology?** YES.

**Please elaborate.**

Youth have had an opportunity to speak to their parents more frequently during this time. In addition to phone contact, we have utilized three main types of video conferencing methods to connect families with their youth including FaceTime, ZOOM, and Skype.

**20. Describe your overall ongoing communication protocol with your county agencies during this pandemic:**

We have been sending out frequent updates to the county leadership to disseminate to their staff teams. We have also sent out protocols. Our main contacts within our agency during this time are listed below:

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