

Health and Human Services Coalition:
VAHHS, VNAs of Vermont, Bayada VHCA, VCP, Bi-State, Adult Day, VMS.

Missing: substance abuse, AAAs

COVID-19 Recommended Emergency Statutory Measures

Declare State of Emergency for interstate licensure and to trigger federal telehealth flexibility 20
VSA sec 9

Preserve Cash Flow

- Temporary authority to DVHA to suspend provider tax payments.
- AHS ability to pay providers who may lose patients (Retreat, Adult Day, Community Mental Health Centers) regardless of number of patients so they're still here when the dust clears
- DVHA ability to provide cash advances, without rules about expected claims payment – don't hold the claims, give advances.
- Change the FQHC encounter rate to the alternative payment flexibility (APM) rate in lieu of standard PPS.
- Extraordinary financial relief process for all providers (current process in place for nursing homes)

Workforce

- Clinical nurse educator in OPR bill and interstate nurse compact in S.125
- Flex the childcare regulations so we can set up childcare if we to set up emergency childcare
- Include a new provision in H723, mirroring commercial payor language during the period of the COVID-19 crisis so we can get paid for telephonic and video. Don't limit mental health to video.

Compliance

- Give AHS authority to release providers from state obligations that they may not be able to meet in a crisis – for example referral obligations and state staffing minimums
- Loosen Medicaid and commercial credentialing to allow movement of providers
- Relaxation of licensure rules for people who are retired to get them back into the workforce

Insurance/Medicaid Recommendations for Consumers

- Waive consumer cost-sharing for visits associated with COVID-19 diagnosis. We believe they are already waived for testing
- Allow coverage of early refills of chronic maintenance medication so people can always have a 30-day supply on hand

Assumption – VDH already has all the authority it needs to procure personal protective equipment which is why not on the list.