

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (01/10/2024)

Quick recap

Keith announced that he has relocated to Dayton and taken up the role of executive director for the Resident Home Association. Debbie provided updates on the HCBS ARPA funds, highlighting the potential for county board projects and workforce development initiatives. She also mentioned an upcoming funding opportunity for projects up to \$5 million and emphasized the need for a supplier ID to apply.

Summary

Executive Director Relocation and Weather Discussion

Keith informed Gina that they have relocated to Dayton and assumed the role of executive director for the Resident Home Association. Gina expressed surprise at the news, and Keith shared that they had lived in Cleveland for the past 18 years before moving. Keith also mentioned that they were looking forward to spring in Dayton and noted the difference in weather compared to Cleveland. Debbie then announced the beginning of the Oca Id Dd Member call.

HCBS ARPA Funds Update and Distribution

Debbie provided updates on the HCBS ARPA funds. They mentioned that the department has opened \$14.2 million for county board related projects and will be reviewing the submitted requests. Over 50 county boards have submitted projects. Debbie also discussed the \$5 million available for workforce development, which the Department of Developmental Disabilities will distribute through a grant management system. These funds cannot be used for wages or bonuses, but can be used for recruitment and retention strategies, professional development, and other employee-centric initiatives. They emphasized that these funds could be used for a variety of innovative ideas, such as wellness programs, childcare, and awareness campaigns in local communities.

Funding Opportunities and Reporting Requirements

Debbie discussed the upcoming funding opportunity for projects up to \$5 million total. They emphasized the importance of having a supplier ID to apply for these funds, which can be obtained through the OBM website. Debbie suggested that providers could collaborate and submit as a group, with one entity taking the fiscal lead. They also mentioned that recipients of the funds would need to do some reporting, likely on a quarterly basis. Towards the end of the grant period, a workforce symposium will be organized to share ideas and strategies. Debbie also highlighted three other funding opportunities available for additional projects.

Waiver Modernization Project Update

Debbie provides an update on the waiver modernization project, which was started a year ago. Deloitte has been helping with the project, focusing on three tools: the Cis, the New York tool, and the Minnesota choices assessment. The goal is to eventually get to one assessment and address pain points and concerns with the DDP and AI.

PRM Integration and Ohio Department of Health Updates

Debbie provided updates on waiver modernization and shared concerns about the Ohio Department of Health's practice of issuing citations to lcs for PRN behaviors and medications. They reported that they had met with the Department of Health to discuss this issue and found their responses confusing. The team discussed the need for clarity on how PRMs should be integrated into plans for medication management. Debbie highlighted the difference between licensure and certification and the need for more clarification on their management. Dan expressed concerns about PRMs being used as a blanket solution rather than being incorporated into individualized plans. Towards the end of the meeting, Josh mentioned the release of an ICF rules package for preliminary review.

Rule Changes and New Categories Discussed

Josh explained the changes to the eight rules in the package, six of which are part of the 5 Year Rule Review. Two additional rules were added, including an update to the Cost Report rule that clarifies the definition of active treatment accounts, and changes to the Quality Incentive Program rule to align it with Ohio ISP. The most significant change proposed is the addition of a new category for rate reconsiderations due to extreme hardship. Josh also mentioned the addition of the definition of Peer group 6, a new peer group authorized in the Budget Bill to address youth with intensive behavioral needs. Pete then discussed a recent rule from the Department of Labor that rolled back the definition of an independent contractor to pre-2021 standards.

New Rule, Webinar, Independent Contractors, Risk Mitigation, and Outcome Tracking System

Pete discussed the upcoming information release and webinar about a new rule and its implications for healthcare providers and long-term services. They emphasized the importance of ensuring independent contractors still meet the new definition under the rule. Debbie reminded the team about the due date for the last retention payment program reporting, which is January 15th. They also shared about upcoming trainings from the MUI department focusing on risk mitigation and compliance. Lastly, they mentioned the registration opening for the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day on January 15th. Debbie discussed the recent guidance issued by the Department on self-directed transportation. They explained that the service is designed to increase the independence of individuals and requires them to travel independently, not with a staff person. They also mentioned that if an individual shares a ride with a guest or companion, including a staff person, the cost of the trip must be shared. Debbie also

noted that the Department plans to increase their monitoring of this service. pete asked about Christine's reaction, and Debbie responded that they had not spoken to their. Stephen then suggested that outside council review the independent contractor issue, referencing a new ruling from the National Labor Relations Board on what constitutes a joint employer. There was a discussion led by pete and Stephen about the importance of guidance in their upcoming webinar. Debbie then addressed a topic concerning the outcome tracking system required for providers of employment services, including vocational rehabilitation services. They clarified that it is optional for providers who only offer adult day supports, despite some miscommunications suggesting otherwise. Debbie confirmed that no changes to these rules have been implemented yet and reassured attendees that they would address this matter again in the following week's meeting.

Next steps

- Providers can obtain a supplier ID on the OBM website to apply for the workforce ARPA funds.
- Debbie will seek clarification on the process acceptable to the Department of Health for notifying physicians about PRN medications for behaviors.
- Josh will submit feedback on the ICF rules package to the department by the middle of next week.
- Pete will provide information about the Department of Labor's independent contractor rule in Newsbytes and organize a webinar for further clarification.
- Attendees are encouraged to review the Department of Labor's independent contractor rule and provide feedback to Pete by the middle of next week.

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