

Meeting Summary for ID/DD Member Call

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Quick recap

Debbie discussed the upcoming Dd awareness and Advocacy Day, the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals' events for frontline workers, and a members-only briefing on the State of America's direct support workforce crisis report. She also highlighted changes to the commercial activity tax in Ohio and the expected availability of workforce grants from the Hcbs Arpa funds. Other topics included Electronic Visit Verification, potential issues with renewals and waivers, and Ochca's scholarship program.

Summary

Weekly Hca Member Call Reminder"

Debbie welcomed everyone to the weekly Hca Member call. They reminded attendees about the registration for the upcoming Dd awareness and Advocacy Day on March 12th, emphasizing that it is free but registration is required. They also mentioned an upcoming series of events for frontline workers organized by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, and encouraged everyone to share this information with their staff. Finally, they informed the group about a members-only briefing on the State of America's direct support workforce crisis report.

Ohio CAT Tax Changes Affecting for-Profit Organizations

Debbie brought up changes to the commercial activity tax (cat tax) in Ohio that could impact for-profit organizations. They explained that the Budget Bill altered the tax amount and increased the minimum payment threshold from 1 million to 3 million dollars starting in 2024. They highlighted that organizations with revenue between 1 million and 3 million dollars may not be responsible for the cat tax in the future. Debbie also stressed the importance of paying attention to this change, particularly for organizations that have paid the tax in the past. They mentioned that these organizations need to submit their final report for December 30, 2023, and cancel their account with the Department of Taxation, even if they don't owe any tax.

Workforce Grants, Billing Issues, and EVV Regulations Update

Debbie updated the team on the status of workforce grants from the Hcbs Arpa funds, which are now expected to be available in early February, with a memo expected to be sent out next week and an informational webinar scheduled for January 29th. They also mentioned an issue with Mrc. Billings, where authorizations finalized between December 20th and January 5th had incorrect daily billing units, and providers should review any billings for December or January to ensure accuracy. Finally, Debbie informed the team that residential respite services can now be billed on the same day as Ohio shared living, but those billing in 15-minute units must comply with EVV regulations.

EVV, Medicaid, and Liability Insurance Concerns

Debbie discussed the requirement of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for certain services under the waivers, including homemaker personal care waiver nursing, residential respite in the 15-minute billing units, and nursing delegation. They mentioned an upcoming meeting with the Department of Medicaid to discuss EVV and potential changes to the program. Debbie also raised a concern about providers experiencing issues with liability insurance, either in obtaining it or due to high rates. They asked for feedback on this issue but did not receive any responses. Stephen mentioned that their liability insurance policies renew in April and they have a meeting with their broker to discuss the matter.

Renewals, Waivers, Security, Rates, Reimbursement Inclusion

Debbie discussed potential issues with renewals and waivers, suggesting that if these problems were impacting providers as a whole, they could be raised as an issue. Kiearra shared that their team had to increase their security level for billing documentation, which was affecting their operations, but acknowledged it was outside their immediate responsibilities. Tom noted the lack of competitiveness and fluctuation in rates among various providers, which Debbie suggested could support their argument for reimbursement inclusion.

Team Feedback, QA Reviews, and System Maintenance

Debbie shared feedback received from the team and agreed to address the issues discussed. They highlighted the importance of providers complying with nursing QA reviews by local county boards, including providing requested documentation and implementing plans of improvement within specified timeframes. Additionally, Debbie informed the team about upcoming maintenance on the Ohio ISP and the Ohio ITMS incident tracking system, which will be unavailable from 8 PM on Friday until 8 AM on Monday. They advised team members to call their if any issues arise as a result of this maintenance

Ochca's Scholarship Program Discussed

Debbie informed the team about Ochca's scholarship program, which offers over 75 scholarships worth between \$2,000 and \$12,000 each, totaling \$250,000 for the year. They encouraged team members to share this opportunity with their staff, emphasizing the program's potential as a valuable member benefit. Chelsea raised a question about the applicability of the FAFSA requirement for the scholarship application, which Debbie promised to investigate further.

Kaleidoscope Scholarship System Simplification

Debbie and Gina discuss a new scholarship system called kaleidoscope, which requires a letter of recommendation and login for staff members. They hope it will be easier to apply, as more people would apply if it was easier. Debbie mentions that there were 50 applications already and only 100 in March, so they are hoping for an easier process. Gina shares their experience with the scholarship process, and Debbie plans to discuss it with Diane to see if it is better or easier. They also discuss the importance of encouraging people to go to school for long-term care.

Next steps

Register for the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day by March 12th

Check out the OEDSP events for frontline workers

Attend the Anchors Members Only Briefing on the State of America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis Report

Pay attention to changes in the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT tax) and file the necessary reports and cancel accounts by December 31st

Debbie will check if the FAFSA is a requirement for the scholarship application and get back to Chelsea with the information.