

Meeting Summary for ID/DD Member Call

Dec 20, 2023 11:47:28 Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 823 1336 5092

Quick recap

The team discussed their holiday plans and experiences, with Debbie announcing a holiday break next week. They also discussed the 2023 State of America's direct support workforce crisis report by Anchor, highlighting severe staffing shortages and plans to collect data on wages and staffing issues to share with state representatives. Lastly, they talked about the upcoming increase in waiver rates starting from January 1st, the availability of workforce funds from the Um Arpa program, and ongoing discussions with Cms about PRN meds and behaviors, as well as the nursing facility minimum staffing rule and the expected timeline for finalizing the Medicaid access role.

Summary

Holiday Preparations and Plans

The team engaged in a casual discussion about their holiday preparations and experiences. Christy revealed that they start their Christmas shopping in August, while Tony admitted they hadn't begun yet. Debbie mentioned a frustrating experience with a backordered item for their daughter. After the informal chat, Debbie announced that the team wouldn't be meeting next week due to the holiday season. They wished everyone a happy holiday and a good New Year's, and reminded the team that their next meeting would be on January 3rd.

Direct Support Workforce Crisis Report 2023

Debbie shared the results of the 2023 State of America's direct support workforce crisis report by Anchor. The survey revealed that 95% of respondents experienced moderate to severe staffing shortages in the past year, and only 5% reported no issues. The majority of providers stated they were no longer providing services in certain areas due to staffing shortages, and over 70% had to turn away new referrals. Debbie announced plans to collect quarterly data on wages, staffing wages, and staffing issues to share with state representatives and senators. This initiative aims to keep them informed about the impact of budget increases and the ongoing workforce crisis.

Waiver Rates and Billing Changes Discussed

Debbie informed the team about the upcoming increase in waiver rates starting from January 1st. They emphasized the importance of billing at the new higher rates and ensuring that the usual and customary rates are at least equal to the maximum, failing which the Medicaid system will pay the lesser of the billed or usual and customary rate. Debbie also highlighted a change where providing homemaker personal care and shared living on the same day will no longer be allowed from January 1st, transitioning to residential respite with a new 15-minute unit billing. No concerns or issues were raised during the discussion, indicating readiness for the upcoming transition.

Um Arpa Workforce Funds Availability

Debbie discussed the upcoming availability of workforce funds from the Um Arpa program. They mentioned that Stacey from the Department is working on finalizing the requirements and application process, which will likely be through the OBM portal. Debbie encouraged members to start preparing their proposals for these funds, but cautioned that they should check if they have an Ohio supplier ID. They planned to schedule a call with Stacey to discuss the specifics of the requirements and hoped to release the application process in January.

Funds Distribution, Reports, and New ACR Link

Debbie provided several updates. They discussed the distribution of funds for the Ads quality pilot and encouraged those who haven't received their share to contact the team. They also mentioned that the Provider Mui reports are now available and are due by the end of January. Debbie then noted that funds from the targeted Provider Relief Funds or the Rural Funds must be spent by December 31, 2023. They also mentioned the upcoming opening of the reporting phase 6 portal for those who received \$10,000 or more from July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, with reports due by March 30, 2023. Towards the end, there was a discussion about a potential new ACR link, but no confirmation was given.

Cost Reporting and Waiver Modernization Update

Debbie discussed the release schedule for new cost reporting, mentioning that updates are typically released in December for people to start working on them in the new year. Tony asked about waiver modernization, to which Debbie responded that they had not received an update yet but were expecting one in January. Debbie also expressed concern about the slow progress of these efforts. Josh noted that some resources were already available, while Debbie highlighted the importance of finishing trainings by the end of the year and reporting any outdated information. Chelsea added that many trainings would be taken down and reposted with updates on January 24th. Stephen shared their experience with training, noting that the content had not changed significantly in recent years.

Compliance, Training, and Staffing Updates

Debbie expressed concerns about the lack of requirements for updating training, which could lead to citations for non-compliance. They shared that they had requested guidance from Cms to avoid citing people until internal discussions are held, but was informed that it needs to go through the regulatory process. Debbie also mentioned ongoing discussions with Cms about PRN meds and behaviors, and suggested the possibility of having a clinical person review situations and provide technical assistance. Finally, they shared updates on the nursing facility minimum staffing rule and the expected timeline for finalizing the Medicaid access rule.

Next steps

Debbie will consider sending a quarterly survey to providers to monitor workforce issues and share results with legislature.

Providers should ensure their billing teams are aware of the new waiver rates and usual and customary rates, effective from January 1st. Providers should also ensure they have an Ohio supplier ID for the ARPA workforce funds application process. Providers who have not received funding for the Ads quality pilot should contact the department. Providers should complete their annual UI reports by the end of January. Providers should ensure they spend PRF funds by December 31st. Providers should complete the reporting phase 6 by March 31st. Providers should complete their cost reporting by the end of March.