

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (01/22/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting covered various topics including OSHA updates, workplace safety measures, and changes to compliance rules and reporting requirements. Discussions were held on staff training, technology initiatives, and updates to the Ohio ISP process to align with federal regulations. The team also reviewed workforce data, addressed concerns about service billing, and discussed potential political impacts on Medicaid funding and healthcare policies.

Next steps

- Gina to coordinate with the Ohio ISP Committee to identify key points for feedback on the Ohio ISP and share those with members for providing feedback.
 - Providers to register for the DD Awareness Day event on March 4th, either in-person or virtually, to advocate for funding and support for DD services.
 - Providers to report any adverse reactions or side effects from COVID-19 vaccines to VAERS, even though it's a voluntary report.
-

Summary

OSHA Updates and Workplace Safety

Debbie welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them to check their heating systems and contact the department if they have any issues. Diane then joined the meeting to discuss OSHA updates. She explained that businesses with 100 or more employees and those in specific industry classes, including healthcare, need to report workplace injuries and illnesses electronically. She also mentioned that OSHA is taking action related to Covid-19 and that while there's no specific standard for airborne infectious diseases, employers still need to follow general duty clauses to protect their employees. Diane also reminded the group about the importance of workplace violence prevention and mentioned a webinar on February 11th. Debbie then took over to cover other topics before closing the meeting.

Staff Training, OSHA Visit, and Compliance

Diane discussed the importance of staff training to handle potential incidents and the need for resources to deal with crises. She also mentioned the upcoming OSHA visit and the need for preparation. Debbie updated the team on the formation of a technology community of practice by Anchor, and the upcoming deadline for annual MUI analysis and reports. She also reminded the team to monitor revalidation dates and update information on owners and managing employees in PNM to avoid termination of

provider agreements. Lastly, she provided an update on the Provider Compliance Work Group, which is nearing the end of its review of the compliance tool.

Community Integration Rate Eligibility Concerns

Debbie discussed the department's concerns about the community integration rate being billed for services provided in non-community integrated settings. She mentioned that the department is considering additional conversations to find a way to allow for community-based settings to still bill the community integration rate while preventing non-community integrated settings from doing so. Debbie also mentioned that the department is looking hard at what services are eligible for the community integration rate, especially with the transition to the new best service. She emphasized that they are advocating for broader eligibility for the community integration rate and will keep the team updated on the department's decisions.

Remote Support Rule and Compliance Updates

Debbie discussed the updates to the remote support rule, which now requires each workstation where monitoring is occurring to have a power backup and a secure network. The department is working on a revised version of the compliance tool, which will be open for comments before a proposed effective date of April 1st. Debbie also mentioned a future lean event to improve the compliance review process and encouraged feedback from the team. Lastly, she shared the NCI State of the Workforce report for 2023, which provides national data for comparison with Ohio's Dsp Compensation report.

Ohio's Wage and Turnover Rates Discussed

Debbie discussed the results from the Nci data, which showed the national average hourly wage to be \$17.20, while Ohio's average was \$15.56. She noted that Ohio's data was from 2023, before the rate increases in 2024, and anticipated that the data for 2024 would be more in line with national data. Debbie also mentioned that Ohio's turnover rate was higher than the national average, but the tenure numbers were similar. Lastly, she pointed out that Ohio's vacancy rates were higher than the national average, but there was a decrease from 2022 to 2023. She expressed hope that the budget investment and rate increases would help reduce vacancy rates in 2024.

Non-Medical Transportation Billing and ISP

Debbie shared new data and updates from the department. She highlighted that the department is still unable to bill for non-medical transportation and competitive integrated employment services, despite previous reports suggesting otherwise. She emphasized that these services need to be authorized separately and not automatically. Debbie also reminded the team about the importance of providing feedback on the Ohio ISP, as the department is seeking input to improve it and meet the requirements of the Cms Medicaid access rule. She encouraged the team to share their concerns and suggestions, as this feedback could influence future changes.

Ohio ISP Compliance and Medicaid Access

The meeting involved a discussion about the Ohio ISP process and its compliance with federal regulations. Debbie clarified that the changes to the Ohio ISP were primarily driven by the need to align with federal requirements, particularly those related to Medicaid access and service planning. Pete added that the main impetus for these changes was compliance with federal regulations. Dan raised a concern about the inclusion of ICF providers in the changes, suggesting that additional requirements should only be made for home and community-based services if they are relevant to ICF providers. Debbie agreed with Dan's point. Gina also participated in the discussion, though her specific contribution was not detailed in the transcript.

ICF Providers Share Notes and Discuss Politics

Gina proposed that the ICF providers should collectively share their notes and send in their own notes separately to ensure all important areas are covered. Debbie agreed and suggested this could be done through the Ohio ISP committee. Debbie also discussed the political climate, mentioning that Trump had rescinded some executive orders under the Biden administration but none seemed to impact their services. She explained that any rule or regulation changes would need to go through a rulemaking process, and that the Congressional Review window would need to be followed. Debbie also mentioned that Congress is likely to deal with a budget and a Reconciliation Bill, which could include cost-saving measures. She noted that while some of these measures might be beneficial, others could be concerning.

Medicaid Funding Shift and OSHA Changes

Debbie discussed the potential shift in Medicaid funding from a match between the State and the Federal government to a block grant system. She explained that under this system, the Federal government would provide a certain amount of funding per person, and the State would have to cover any additional costs. Debbie noted that this could be challenging for states with tight budgets and no mechanism for ongoing rate increases. She also mentioned that the process of government is slow and that many proposed changes do not ultimately occur. Debbie further informed the team about a recent directive from the Trump administration to pause all external communications from Federal agencies, which could impact their work. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to register for the DD Awareness Day, which is an important advocacy opportunity. Dan raised a question about OSHA's potential shift towards a consistent infection control procedure, but no clear answer was provided in the transcript.

OSHA Rules, Vaccine Concerns, and Pause

Debbie confirmed that OSHA is not moving forward with their COVID-19 specific rule but is not backing off from current rules such as respiratory programs, medical evaluations, and fit testing. She also mentioned the possibility of additional infection prevention rules. Dan expressed concerns about the science behind the COVID-19

vaccines and the lack of informed consent documents. Pete added that the new administration has ordered a 60-day pause on all rulemaking, including the broader infectious disease rule. The team agreed to continue monitoring these developments.

AI-generated content may be inaccurate or misleading. Always check for accuracy.