

## **Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (02/21/2024)**

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed adjusting meeting times for Dodd's webinar and canceled next week's call due to a conference. Updates were given on the political landscape, Medicaid access rule, and the results of the National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey. The team also discussed using data for advocacy efforts in the next budget cycle and the importance of monitoring it over the years. An issue regarding a stuck recertification process between the Dod System and P. And M. was also addressed.

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### **Summary**

#### **Meeting Time Change, Convention Registration Open**

Debbie and Tony discussed the change in meeting time to accommodate those who want to attend Dodd's Webinar starting at noon. Debbie mentioned that the call would be cancelled next week due to their attendance at a conference. She also highlighted the opening of registration for their convention, scheduled for May 13th to 16th at the Columbus Convention Center. She clarified that each dB organization would receive one or two free registrations, depending on the size of the organization. Debbie encouraged early registration to ensure the right-sized room for educational sessions.

#### **Medicaid Access Rule Update and National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey Results**

Debbie provided updates on the political landscape and the Medicaid access rule. She informed the team that the rule is currently at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stage for approval before being finalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Debbie mentioned that there are four scheduled meetings with OMB and various national organizations about the rule. She also shared the results of the National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey and compared it with Ohio's 2022 Direct Support Professional Compensation Survey. The data showed that Ohio's median and starting wages were lower than the national averages.

#### **Data Use in Budgeting and Advocacy Efforts**

Tony and Debbie discussed the potential use of information in the next budget cycle and how it could inform legislators about national trends. Debbie suggested that the data could be useful in their advocacy efforts, as it shows they are not paying more than the national average. She also noted that the data is from 2022 and does not include recent rate increases. Debbie emphasized the importance of monitoring the data over the next few years to see how Ohio's data compares to the national average. She also pointed out that they have a higher turnover rate for employees in their first year on the job compared to the national average.

### **Reporting Deadline and Political Updates**

Debbie reminded the team about the due date for the outcome tracking system data reporting, which is March 31st. She highlighted that everyone providing employment services, including ICF providers, is mandated to submit the report. Debbie also clarified that the report is optional for those providing adult day services. She further mentioned delays in the blueprint group's progress and upcoming political updates from Pete. Pete emphasized the crucial role of the legislature in securing funding increases and thanked all involved for their contributions.

### **State Political Tension and Upcoming Primary Elections**

Pete discussed the ongoing political tension in the state, particularly surrounding the Speaker race that took place at the end of 2022. He highlighted that the situation has not resolved and has even intensified, with the state Republican party censuring those who voted for the Speaker and challenging the speaker in various ways. Pete also mentioned that the primary elections are approaching on March 19th and will be a critical moment for the House of Representatives. He outlined several key races to watch, including those of Senate President Hoffman, who is running for a house seat and aims to become the Speaker, and several incumbents who face challengers. Pete also responded to questions about the competitiveness of the race for Tom Patton's seat and the plans of Representative Edwards.

### **Recertification Process Delay Issue Addressed**

Debbie addressed an issue about a recertification process that had been stuck between the Dod System and P. And M., which caused delays for providers. She advised the team to monitor their recertification progress and contact her if there were any concerns about potential expiration. Debbie also informed the team that there would be no call the following Wednesday and they would reconvene in two weeks on March 6th.

### **Next steps**

- Debbie will share feedback from Anchor's meeting with the National Court Indicators Staff Stability Survey in the next call.
- Debbie will monitor the outcome tracking system data reporting due by March 31st and reach out to the department if there are any issues.

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