

## Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (06/12/2024)

### Quick recap

Debbie introduced the On Scene team and their new statewide provider search tool, designed to improve the current system for finding certified waiver providers in Ohio. The team also discussed various issues related to the new system, including the potential impact on ICFS, the process for connecting families with providers, and the development of a new outcome-based payment system. Lastly, Debbie provided updates on several topics including the County board financial Sustainability work group, concerns regarding the Medicaid access rule, and the ongoing advocacy efforts for a standard occupational classification for direct support professionals.

### Next steps

- Providers to volunteer to work with Lori and Randy on the provider search module development and testing.
- Debbie to share the link for providing comments to OMB on creating a separate occupational classification for direct support professionals.
- Providers to inform Debbie of any issues with the Ohio ISP system that cannot be resolved by the county or Brickco.
- Providers interested in applying for the group employment supports grant to submit their application by the extended deadline of June 20th.
- Debbie to follow up with the Department on including ICFs in the provider search module.
- Debbie to follow up with the Department on their conversations with CMS regarding the Healthcare Assessment Service.

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### Summary

#### On Scene Team Introduction and Update

Debbie led a meeting with Lori and Pete, along with several others, including guests from On Scene. Debbie informed the team that she would be on vacation next week, but the member call would continue, with Josh Anderson leading. The main focus of the meeting was to introduce On Scene, a team that received a grant from Arpa funds to carry out projects aimed at providing benefits to the team. Lori, a member of On Scene, was set to provide an update on their work.

#### New Statewide Provider Search Tool Development

Lori introduced a new statewide provider search tool designed to standardize and improve the current system for finding certified waiver providers in Ohio. The tool, developed with a grant from Dodd, aims to simplify the process for providers, county

boards, and individuals served by the system. randy, one of the co-founders of On Scene, elaborated on the tool's components and objectives, emphasizing that it should be efficient, user-friendly, and beneficial to all parties. The tool is currently in the development phase, with plans to integrate it into the marketplace by early next year.

### **New System Development and Concerns**

Lori discussed plans to build a new system with input from various stakeholders, including randy and members of Opera and the Arc of Ohio. Lori asked for volunteers to help with the project and future testing. Gina raised concerns about the inclusion of ICFS and the possibility of county boards being required to switch over to the new system. Lori confirmed that the inclusion of ICFS is a possibility, but additional funding would be needed. Debbie agreed with Gina's point and suggested that the department should have a role in ensuring the new system functions as well as, or better than, existing county systems. She also suggested further discussions with the department regarding the potential impact on ICFS.

### **Discussing Grant, PSM Data, and Back-End Features**

Debbie proposed including a discussion about the grant in the upcoming conversation with Steve AI. Lori noted the potential of incorporating the Psm data and made a note of this idea. Gina brought up a new back-end feature set to reduce misappropriation and errors, which Lori explained was part of their efforts to help providers manage individual funds. Chelsea raised concerns about lcfs not being listed as options in the new system, which Lori and Debbie agreed to discuss further, acknowledging the existing statutory and rule language requiring county boards to include lcfs on their websites.

### **Connecting Families With Residential Services Providers**

The team discussed the process for connecting families in need of residential services with potential providers. randy explained the draft workflow, which includes initial matches, a sign-off by the County Board, and then contact from interested providers. Stephen raised a concern about designating where notifications go. randy confirmed that the system allows for flexible configurations of notifications, including text, email, and in-app alerts. The team also discussed the cost of the technology, with randy revealing it's approximately \$900-\$1,000 over the next year. Debbie invited providers interested in participating in further discussions to contact her, as the team aims to gather feedback to improve the system's design.

### **Program Updates and Assessment Tool Selection**

Debbie provided updates on two main parts of a program. First, she discussed the County board financial Sustainability work group's development of a framework for state assistance to county boards. The group is considering a request for \$10 million in state funds to help with this. Second, she shared that the assessment tool to replace the current Ddp and AI has been selected as the Cis support intensity scale. Debbie also mentioned that they are still in the process of determining the appropriate assessment

tool and have not yet made a final decision. She also hinted at future discussions about the integration of various assessments. Lastly, she mentioned that they are still gathering data to understand the impact of budget increases on reimbursement models.

### **Medicaid Access Rule and Waiver Modernization**

Debbie discussed concerns regarding the Medicaid access rule and its potential impact on the provision of homemaker personal care services. She highlighted that there was confirmation from multiple sources at the Department that homemaker personal care would be included in the 80-20 provision of the rule. This was a change from previous beliefs and needed to be monitored for any changes. Debbie also mentioned plans for waiver modernization and the potential need to replace the DDP with the SIS due to missing time-study data. Lastly, she discussed the ongoing considerations of the blueprint group regarding the implementation of their recommendations for adult day and employment services.

### **New Payment System and Pilot Updates**

Debbie discussed the new outcome-based payment system, effective from July 1st, which requires County Board's SSA to review provider-submitted documentation prior to authorizing payments for services. She encouraged the team to reach out if they encountered any issues. She also announced that the State had decided not to include the Healthcare Assessment Service in the July 1st waiver application due to concerns from CMS about service duplication. The State will continue the state-funded pilot for people already in it, but it's unclear whether it will be expanded to allow more people or if inactive participants will be dropped.

### **Advocacy Efforts, BLS Comments, and Meetings**

Debbie discussed several topics including the ongoing advocacy efforts for a standard occupational classification for direct support professionals, the upcoming comments period for the Bureau of Labor Statistics' revision of general standard occupational classifications, and the initiation of monthly meetings with Dodd and Britt Co. to address issues related to the Ohio ISP. She also informed the team about the extended deadline for a grant by Dodd for building capacity for group employment supports. Debbie emphasized that the team should directly contact Britt Co. for individual issues, but escalate any unresolved issues to her for discussion in the monthly meetings. She also announced that Josh would be covering for her during her absence.

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