

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (09/18/2024)

Quick recap

Debbie provided an update on the waiver modernization effort, including the transition from the DDP to the Sis and the need to assess acuity for individuals with high behavioral needs. She also discussed concerns about the budget, particularly the use of Arpa dollars for rate increases, and the challenges faced by providers in supporting youth with complex behavioral needs. Lastly, she addressed ongoing issues with PNM, the quality pilot, and the Ads quality pilot, and discussed the changes in the Ebb system and the availability of telepsychiatry and second opinion services.

Next steps

- Debbie to follow up with Janet Stefan for clarification on claims adjustment timelines and eligibility.
- Josh to share detailed thresholds for ADS quality pilot measures in upcoming news bytes.
- Providers using alternate EVV systems to register for September 26th webinar on EVV changes.
- ICF providers to be aware of inaccurate emails regarding required Legionella testing.

Summary

Waiver Modernization, Sis Implementation, and ICF Formula Issues

Debbie provided an update on the waiver modernization effort, stating that it's still progressing slowly. The department has decided to use the Sis to replace the ODP, and they are currently working on determining if additional questions are needed. They are also discussing training for county boards on the Sis assessments. Debbie also mentioned that the department has finalized their plan for county board financial sustainability, which will be part of their budget ask. She suggested that the department should reconvene the ICF Reimbursement group to address ongoing issues with the ICF formula, including the transition from the DDP to the Sis and the need to assess acuity for individuals with high behavioral needs.

Budget Concerns and Future Funding Strategies

Debbie discussed concerns about the budget, particularly the use of Arpa dollars for rate increases. She mentioned that the administration and legislature had committed to filling the gap left by the loss of Arpa dollars in the next budget. However, she expressed concern about the Office of Budget and Management's guidance to state agencies, which suggested that agencies might not be able to request additional General Revenue Funds (GRF) to replace one-time funds. Despite this, Director Haug

reassured Debbie that there was no reason to be concerned about the availability of GRF funds to continue current rates. Debbie also noted that the state's financial picture was uncertain, with tax revenue not meeting expectations, which could impact the budget. She emphasized the need to monitor the situation as the budget cycle progresses.

Addressing Complex Behavioral Needs in Youth

Debbie discussed the challenges faced by providers in supporting youth with complex behavioral needs. She mentioned that the department is meeting with various stakeholders to identify potential solutions within the next budget. The department presented a high-level document summarizing their previous stakeholder meeting, which Debbie's team found lacking in detail. She highlighted the need for more specific solutions, such as addressing the limitations of the current waiver system and the challenges of coordinating mental health and developmental disability services. Debbie also suggested building the capacity of certain providers to offer more comprehensive support and improving collaboration with education programs.

Department Concerns, Budget Creation, and Training Queues

Debbie discussed the department's concerns and the need for more detailed action to increase access. She mentioned that the department would revisit a document, add details, and use it to inform their budget creation. The department's response to the budget would likely be announced in February. Debbie also addressed a question about training queues for the Cis and Ssas, stating that it would depend on the department's decision regarding transitioning to the Cis. She mentioned a previous transition from the Iaf to the GDP, which involved a time study that didn't accurately reflect the intensive services needed.

Waiver Work Group Changes and Limitations

Debbie discussed the recent changes in the waiver work group, which now has a limited number of representatives from each entity. She expressed concern about the group's role in reviewing potential new services and changes, as it seems to be focused only on the waiver. Debbie also mentioned that the group is nearing completion of the waiver amendment set to take effect on January 1st, which includes changes to the Health Services Assessment and the addition of non-medical transportation for competitive integrated employment and regular transportation. She also highlighted a discussion about the \$10,000 limit on home and vehicle modifications, suggesting that these could potentially be broken down into smaller projects to stay within the limit. Debbie encouraged the team to report any issues related to these modifications to her for further guidance.

PNM System Issues and Quality Pilot Updates

Debbie discussed ongoing issues with PNM, a system causing problems with eligibility and patient liability. She mentioned that the State is aware of these issues and is

working to resolve them, but no timeline has been provided. Debbie also mentioned issues with claims disappearing, which are being addressed with a fix planned for October 8th. She also touched on issues with claims adjustments for waiver claims, which have been delayed due to PNM issues. Debbie is seeking more information on this and plans to follow up. Lastly, Josh updated the team on the quality pilot, stating that two of the eight measures are being dropped for year 2 due to insufficient data.

Payment Calculation Measures and Bonuses Discussed

Josh discussed the measures for the payment calculation in the program. He explained that there are 7 measures, with one being double weighted, and the total potential payment pool could be divided into these measures. He also mentioned a bonus pool for providers who score less than the full payment but more than three full measures. Josh noted that the details of the thresholds for each measure were not yet available but would be included in future communications. He emphasized the importance of the outcome tracking system data, which is due by January 31st, 2025, to ensure the final calculations and payments are made before the funds expire.

Ads Quality Pilot and Ebb System Changes

Josh discussed the Ads quality pilot and a webinar about the changes in the Ebb system, particularly for providers using an alternate Ebb system. Debbie informed the team about the availability of telepsychiatry and second opinion services, funded by Dodd, and the need to correct misinformation about Legionella testing and water management requirements for ICF providers. No questions were raised during the meeting.

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