

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (11/27/2024)

Quick recap

Debbie and Pete discussed various topics including the tornado sirens, the Department of Labor's overtime rule, and the waiver redesign. They also discussed the ongoing project of transitioning to the System for Assessing Waiver Support (SAWS) and the Comprehensive Assessment Instrument (CAI), and the need for simplification in the system. Additionally, they addressed changes made by the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding overpayments and ongoing claims issues with Provider Network Management (PNM) for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).

Next steps

- Providers to review and provide feedback on the Ohio ISP training outline and assessment reminder document by December 16th.
- Providers to register for the Ohio ISP informational webinar scheduled for December 11th at 10 AM.
- Providers with low or no Ohio ISP completion rates to make progress on completing plans before potential enforcement in January.
- Providers experiencing issues transmitting Ohio ISP plans to DODD's Salesforce system to reach out to Josh or Debbie for assistance.
- Providers to review and implement the new SSA guidelines on overpayments, including options for waivers and appeals.

Summary

Light Attendance Meeting With Updates

Debbie and Pete had a meeting, but the attendance was light due to the day before a holiday. They discussed the tornado sirens going off in their area, with Pete's being less audible. Debbie wished everyone a great week and a happy Thanksgiving, acknowledging that many people were traveling. They also mentioned having some updates to share, but the details were not provided in the transcript.

Nasdes Conference Highlights Developmental Disabilities

At the Nasdes Conference, Debbie and Pete learned that many states are focusing on providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health or behavioral health issues. Two states, Arizona and Louisiana, presented their approach of training mental health professionals to serve this population. However, there were concerns about relying on an already overtaxed mental health system in Ohio. The conference also highlighted efforts around workforce development and supporting competitive integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Overtime Rule Reversal and Impact

Debbie discussed the Department of Labor's overtime rule, which was vacated by a judge due to overreach of authority. The rule, which increased the minimum salary threshold to \$35,000, has been reverted to its previous state. The Department of Labor may appeal the ruling, but it is uncertain if the current administration will do so. The new administration may have a different approach to the rule. The impact of the rule's reversal depends on how employers handled the July 1st increase, with some able to revert previously exempt employees to non-exempt status.

Waiver Redesign and System Simplification

Debbie provided an update on the waiver redesign and the department's decision to move away from the DDP and towards the Cis. She discussed the concerns raised by associations and the department's response, including the need for a starting point for person-centered planning. Debbie suggested eliminating the Sis to add efficiency and simplification to the system, but the department disagreed, stating that the Sis is necessary to guide the person-centered planning process and to inform acuity-based rates for day and vocational services, as well as residential services. The department also mentioned that some questions on the Cis could pre-populate into the assessment piece of the service planning. Debbie requested more information to better understand the system simplification and acuity-based rates.

Assessment Questions and Time Savings Concerns

Debbie discussed the assessment questions in the Ohio ISP and Cis, noting that about 10% of the questions were similar. She highlighted the need for more information in certain areas and the potential for quick answers through the Cis. Debbie also mentioned the department's inferred questions and the possibility of saving time through the Cis assessment. She expressed concerns about the estimated time savings and the overestimation of current time spent on assessments.

SAWS and CAI Transition Discussion

Debbie discussed the ongoing project of transitioning to the System for Assessing Waiver Support (SAWS) and the Comprehensive Assessment Instrument (CAI). She highlighted that not all State Service Administrators (SSAs) will be trained to conduct the SAWS, and a separate group of assessors will be assessing people with the CAI. Debbie also mentioned that the project started as a waiver redesign project but has now recognized the need to change to the CAI under the Individualized Comprehensive Employment (ICF) program. The Department has contracted with Deloitte to analyze this transition. Debbie expressed concerns about the decision-making process and the need for the contract to go through the controlling board. She suggested that this could be an opportunity to advocate for more system simplification.

Simplifying Service Information System for Providers

Debbie discussed the need for simplification in the system, particularly in relation to the Service Information System (SIS). She highlighted the importance of the provider's role in understanding the support needs of individuals, as they are often the ones providing the support. Debbie also mentioned the challenges faced in the waiver redesign process, where different groups were engaged separately without considering the impact on all stakeholders. She suggested that the new tool could potentially simplify the system by eliminating add-ons and rolling in services based on the needs identified from the SIS. However, she emphasized that the system should not just be replaced without making it better and not adding to the administrative burden.

Provider Compliance and Ohio ISP Updates

Debbie discussed the confusion around provider-owned or controlled settings and the need for a lease to protect individual rights. She shared a draft decision tree from the provider compliance area and encouraged feedback. Josh updated the team on the Ohio ISP, noting that over 80% of ICFS have completed at least 70% of their Ohio ISPs. He highlighted that about 9 organizations have done little to no work on their plans, urging them to make progress before enforcement begins in January.

Ohio ISP Training Outline Discussion

Josh and Bradley discussed the Ohio ISP training outline and assessment reminder document. Bradley shared that the document is a draft and they are seeking feedback by December 16th. They also announced a webinar scheduled for December 11th to provide information about the training and in-person trainings. Debbie added that the plans listed were from Dodd's Salesforce system and encouraged providers to reach out if they were having technical difficulties with transmission. She also reminded the team to review the health and welfare alert issued by Dodd.

SSA Overpayment Changes and Claims Issues

Debbie discussed changes made by the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding overpayments. She shared a fact sheet with the team, which includes information on how to request an overpayment waiver, spread out payments, and appeal overpayments. Debbie also addressed ongoing claims issues with Provider Network Management (PNM) for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), emphasizing the importance of updating income information with the county job and family services and submitting claims timely. She announced that Medicaid has extended the timely filing deadline for claims until March 1, 2025, to allow for processing of old claims.

ICF Providers and Licensure Review

Debbie asked if there were any ICF providers with licenses set to expire at the end of the year, and if they had not been contacted by the Department of Health for a licensure review. Pete then discussed a bill that passed the Ohio House, which he expressed concerns about. The bill, known as the "Never Alone Bill," creates a new status of person called an advocate with special powers for residents in various healthcare

settings. Pete suggested amendments to the bill to carve out licensed residential facilities and to recognize guardians or durable powers of attorney as advocates. The bill is currently in the Senate and its future is uncertain.

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