

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (12/04/2024)

Quick recap

Debbie discussed various topics including the budget, challenges faced by providers in northeastern Ohio, and the transition to the Cis acuity assessment tool. She also proposed potential improvements to the current system, such as simplifying the billing system and automating the clinician verification process. Lastly, she provided updates on the Provider Compliance Work group, the proposed rule from the Department of Labor, and her recent call with CMS regarding ICF programs.

Next steps

- Debbie to meet with DODD staff to discuss potential simplifications and compromises regarding the SIS implementation and other system improvements.
 - Providers to review the proposed Department of Labor rule on phasing out 14(c) certificates and submit comments if applicable.
 - Providers interested in the art programs community of practice to email Debbie to be included.
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Summary

Weekly Duty Member Call and Budget Discussion

Debbie welcomed everyone to the weekly Duty member call and expressed her hope that everyone had a great holiday weekend. She acknowledged the challenges faced by providers in northeastern Ohio due to snow and damage. Debbie then discussed her recent meeting with Director Hauck, where they covered various topics, including the budget. She shared that Hauck would be meeting with the Governor's office in the coming weeks to discuss her budget and priorities. Debbie also mentioned that the Administration is working on their budget, with final decisions expected in January. She emphasized the importance of data and stories in advocating for an increase in the budget to retain staff and continue serving people. Lastly, she mentioned the creation of an industry trend report by the Dd budget coalition.

Addressing Service Gaps and Cis Transition

Debbie discussed the ongoing challenges in providing services to individuals with intensive needs, suggesting potential budget items to address these gaps. She also highlighted the department's decision to transition to the Cis acuity assessment tool, expressing concerns about the lack of provider representation in the decision-making process. Debbie emphasized the significant role providers play in these assessments, particularly for those without family involvement. She shared her conversation with

Director How, who acknowledged the concerns raised by providers about increased time and effort required for participation in the Cis.

Simplification and Savings With New Tool

Debbie discussed the potential simplification and savings from a new tool that would place people into acuity buckets and use acuity-based rates. She expressed uncertainty about the benefits, as the tool would eliminate current funding ranges and add-ons for behavioral, medical, and complex care. Debbie also mentioned the development of a bot to transfer information from the Sis to the Ohio ISP assessment, but noted that only about 10% of the assessment questions are directly on the Sis. She suggested exploring other opportunities, such as the level of care assessment, which has most of its questions on the Sis.

Improving System, Automating Clinician Verification

Debbie discussed potential improvements to the current system, including the possibility of a daily rate for services and the simplification of the billing system. She also suggested automating the clinician verification process and eliminating the need for the MRC. Debbie proposed a meeting with staff to further discuss these ideas. She also mentioned the issue of prior authorization for waiver services, suggesting a possible automated solution. Despite some concerns about the Sis project, Debbie indicated that the department seems committed to its continuation. She suggested that advocating against the project might damage their relationship with the department, and therefore, they should explore other ways to simplify the system.

Arpa Dollars Funding and Quality Program

Debbie provided an update on her conversation with the director, discussing potential simplifications and the need for further input. She also mentioned the end of the Arpa dollars funding for the day services quality pilot and the ongoing internal discussions about a permanent quality program for ads. The department is considering replacing the current vocab service with a new service called Best Basic Employment Skills Training, but there are concerns about the removal of a small group community integrated option for the new service. Debbie will discuss these concerns further with Stacy and Keith Banner from the department.

Proposed Rule on 14 C Certificates

Debbie discussed a proposed rule from the Department of Labor that would phase out the use of 14 C certificates over a three-year period. She acknowledged the challenges and arguments for and against eliminating these certificates, noting that some people with disabilities might lose their ability to work if they are phased out. Debbie also mentioned that the comment period for the proposed rule had begun and encouraged those currently using 14 C certificates to review it. She expressed uncertainty about the rule's finalization due to the upcoming change in administration.

Provider Compliance Work Group Updates

Debbie discussed the ongoing work of the Provider Compliance Work group, which is focused on the compliance tool for agency providers under the waiver. She mentioned that the group has been meeting regularly and has been working on new questions related to the Hcbs Settings rule, with a focus on day and voc services. She also mentioned that the group will be reviewing revisions made based on previous comments and will finalize all revisions by the end of January. Debbie shared the most updated version of the compliance tool with the team and encouraged them to review it and provide any comments or concerns.

ICF Programs and Survey Concerns

Debbie discussed her recent call with CMS regarding ICF programs, highlighting the issue of many ICFs not being surveyed within the required 12-month period. She also mentioned the data shared on complaint surveys versus standard surveys and the concerns raised by CMS about the lack of specialized surveyors for ICFs. Debbie also mentioned the possibility of sharing more information on immediate jeopardies and the creation of a community of practice for art programs. She encouraged providers to share their concerns and expressed her willingness to assist them. No questions or concerns were raised by the team.

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