

## Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (04/09/2025)

### Quick recap

Jason, a 28-year veteran in the DD system, introduced himself to the team and provided an update on the outcome tracking system. Debbie discussed the House's substitute version of the House Bill, the concerns about the Electronic Visit Verification (EvV) system, and the updates on the ICF reimbursement work group. Pete discussed the progress of the Senate and US Senate's budget resolution and the potential impact on Medicaid funding, while Debbie expressed hope for improved communication and potential changes to the ICF program under the new CMS Administrator.

### Next steps

- OHCA members to continue advocacy efforts regarding potential Medicaid cuts in the federal budget reconciliation process.
- OHCA staff to monitor and provide updates on the federal budget resolution and reconciliation process.
- OHCA staff to follow up on potential changes to CMS regulations, including the PRN medication guidance for ICFs and the Medicaid access rule.
- OHCA members to consider attending the upcoming OHCA convention from May 5th to 8th in Columbus.
- Providers to ensure staff are properly using EVV and matching records with claims submissions, given the potential for claim denials starting October 1st.
- OHCA staff to continue participating in the ICF Reimbursement work group meetings to address concerns and potential changes to the reimbursement model.
- OHCA staff to research and gather more information on the NRAI assessment tool being considered for waiver modernization efforts.

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### Summary

#### Jason's Introduction and System Update

Jason, a 28-year veteran in the DD system, introduced himself to the team. He shared his experience working on the provider side for 19 years and his current role as a superintendent for the Licking County Board. Jason emphasized the importance of collaboration between providers and county boards, highlighting the successful culture of gratitude they developed. He encouraged team members to reach out to him for any questions or concerns and expressed his interest in meeting each team member in person. Jason also provided an update on the outcome tracking system, informing the team that the reporting period for 2024 has been extended through April 30th. He offered assistance to those who have not entered their data or need help and shared the contact information of the regional community life Engagement Project Manager.

### **House Budget Bill Waiver Rate Concerns**

Debbie discussed the House's substitute version of the House Bill, which did not include any increases for waiver rates. The bill kept the Icf formula and the professional workforce development add-on, but reduced the increase to the P. And A from \$50 to \$75. Debbie mentioned that they drafted an alternative amendment for a 1-time 2% increase for the waiver rates, but it was not included in the House Finance Committee's omnibus amendment. The House Budget Bill is expected to be voted on today, and Debbie expressed concerns about the challenging budget process and the potential for tax cuts or other cuts in the Senate version. She emphasized the importance of protecting current funding and continuing advocacy efforts.

### **Evv System Concerns and Claim Denials**

Debbie discussed the concerns about the Electronic Visit Verification (Evv) system and the potential denial of claims if there's no matching Evv record. She mentioned that there was an amendment in the sub bill to address this issue, but it's uncertain if it will make it into the final version. The governor has the power to veto line items. Debbie also shared data showing that only about 40% of Dd. Waiver claims required to have Evv records are currently matching, which could lead to 60% of claims being denied. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that staff are using the Evv system correctly and that someone is monitoring the data to ensure it matches the claims submitted.

### **ICF Reimbursement Work Group Updates**

Debbie provides updates on the ICF reimbursement work group and discussions with Director Hauck. The group will meet every two weeks to discuss potential changes to the reimbursement model. The department is considering moving away from an assessment tool for DDP and making quality measures more measurable. They are also seriously considering the NRI tool for waiver modernization, as it addresses stakeholder concerns about assessment time. Pete is about to give a federal update on an ongoing situation.

### **Senate Budget Resolution Progress Discussed**

Pete discussed the progress of the Senate and US Senate's budget resolution, which needs to pass both Houses and be signed by the President to start the budget reconciliation process. The resolution has not been passed yet, with the House and Senate producing different versions. The Senate has passed a version with \$4 billion in spending cuts, while the House has proposed \$1.5 to \$2 trillion in cuts. The final decisions will be made in reconciliation. Pete believes the resolution will pass, while Debbie is more skeptical. The process is ongoing, with the next steps including a vote in the Rules Committee and potential further negotiations. The outcome will impact Medicaid funding, and advocacy efforts will continue regardless of the resolution's passage.

**Dr. Oz's Impact on ICF Program**

Debbie discussed the recent confirmation of Dr. Oz as the CMS Administrator, which she hopes will lead to improved communication and potential changes to the ICF program. She also mentioned ongoing advocacy for regulatory changes regarding PRN medications for behaviors. Pete added that the new administration might target regulations for reduction, and Debbie clarified that a lawsuit against the CMS minimum staffing rule only affected certain provisions, leaving the payment transparency reporting requirements in effect. Debbie also reminded the group about the upcoming convention in Columbus.

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