

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (02/12/2025)

Quick recap

Debbie led a discussion on the recent developments in the budget bill, including changes to the Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities program and the potential impact of significant changes to the Medicaid program due to the Federal Government's budget process. She also provided updates on the ongoing issues with the July 1st amendment, the potential for redefining services, and the potential impact of the Mui rule changes. Lastly, she encouraged the team to participate in the upcoming Ohio ISP survey and to register for the Ohca Annual Convention.

Next steps

- OHCA members to complete and share the Ohio ISP survey with staff to provide feedback on formatting and content improvements.
- OHCA members to inform staff about limited Salesforce access on Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 PM due to system updates.
- OHCA members to watch for Annual Convention registration opening next week, with the event scheduled for May 5-8 at the Columbus Convention Center.
- ICF providers experiencing patient liability issues to contact Debbie and potentially email Kristen Stewart at DODD for resolution.
- ICF providers to ensure timely reporting of updated income information to county JFS for accurate patient liability calculations.
- OHCA members to consider participating in ANCOR's action alerts for advocating to preserve Medicaid funding at the federal level.

Summary

Budget Bill Developments and RFP

Debbie led a meeting discussing the recent developments in the budget bill. She noted that the bill, over 4,000 pages long, includes no increase for waiver rates but continues them at current levels. The ICF formula remains unchanged, with the professional workforce development payment continuing for the first fiscal year but set to end at the end of fiscal year 26. The bill also includes tech 1st employment, first, st multi system, and youth dollars. Debbie also mentioned an upcoming RFP for ICF providers serving ventilator users. She highlighted a new provision in the bill that allows the department to terminate providers with 24 consecutive months of no billing.

Medicaid Buy-in Program Changes Discussed

Debbie discussed several changes in the Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program. She noted that the program currently requires participants to pay a

premium based on their wages, but the proposed changes would eliminate this premium. She also mentioned that the State had submitted a State Plan amendment to CMS, requesting changes in eligibility criteria to allow people over 65 to continue working and remain in the program. Debbie also highlighted revisions in the language around medication administration, health-related activities, and family delegation, suggesting that these might impact individuals providing services. Lastly, she announced an increase in the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$100 per month.

Budget Process and BEST Rule Update

Debbie provides an update on the budget process, emphasizing that it is a long process with multiple stages. She mentions that Director Houck is scheduled to testify on February 26th, followed by public testimony in the Health Committee. The DD Budget Coalition met to discuss their approach, which includes advocating for modest increases in waiver rates to support cost of living adjustments for staff. Debbie also discusses proposed changes to the BEST rule, including the Department's decision to allow a community integration option but remove group employment supports and career exploration. She shares concerns about the definition of community integration in the revised rule and encourages providers to review and provide feedback. Debbie mentions her discussion with Stacey Collins from DODD regarding potential service duplication concerns, but argues that clear definitions could prevent any overlap between BEST services and group employment or career exploration services.

Addressing Patient Liability Issues

Debbie discussed the ongoing issues with the July 1st amendment and the potential for redefining services to differentiate between various services. She also mentioned that the department had changed its stance on including a community option under best, following feedback from stakeholders. Debbie then shifted the discussion to patient liability issues experienced by ICF providers since the PNM went live in July 2024. She explained that the system no longer takes the patient liability off the claim submitted by the provider, but instead uses information from the fiscal intermediary's system, Ohio Benefits. Debbie encouraged providers to report updated income information to their county JFS to ensure correct patient liability calculations. She also mentioned that Kristen Stewart and her team would assist with resolving any ongoing issues.

Medicaid Program Changes and Budget Process

Pete provided an update on the potential impact of significant changes to the Medicaid program due to the Federal Government's budget process. He explained that the process involves two steps: a budget resolution setting target numbers and a budget reconciliation filling in the details. Pete noted that neither the House nor the Senate has passed a budget resolution yet, with the Senate making progress and the House facing potential difficulties. He also mentioned that the Senate is considering two reconciliation bills, with healthcare likely to be in the second version. Pete concluded by expressing

skepticism about whether Congress will be able to pass any resolution or reconciliation bill.

Navigating Medicaid Cuts and Advocacy

Pete discussed the challenges of the current political climate, particularly regarding the potential cuts to Medicaid and the impact on various stakeholders. He noted that the situation was dynamic and fluid, with the potential for significant changes. Pete also mentioned a provision in a budget bill that could lead to the loss of eligibility for the expansion population in Ohio if federal matching funds were cut. He emphasized the importance of monitoring the situation and engaging in advocacy when possible. Debbie encouraged the attendees to stay informed and to take action through advocacy opportunities, such as those provided by the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA). She also reminded them to complete the Ohio ISP survey to provide their feedback.

Ohio ISP Survey and Gatherings

Debbie discussed the upcoming Ohio ISP survey and in-person gatherings, emphasizing the importance of feedback for potential changes. She encouraged all members to participate in the survey and share it with their staff, especially those who use the Ohio ISP. She also mentioned that the department is considering both the format and content of the Ohio ISP, and that more feedback could lead to changes in the formatting. Lastly, she informed the team that Salesforce would be down for updates this weekend, potentially affecting access to the Ohio ISP.

Ohca Annual Convention Registration Update

Debbie informed the team that the registration for the Ohca Annual Convention, scheduled for May 5th to 8th at the Columbus Convention Center, would be available soon. She reminded them that each member gets at least one free registration, with some members getting two depending on their dues level. She also mentioned that the free registration lasts through the early bird period. Debbie requested the department director, Houck, to bring Scott Phillips to discuss the Mui rule changes. She suggested that Tuesday of the convention might be the best day for education, but also mentioned that Tuesday and Wednesday are usually full of good education for Dd members. She ended the conversation by asking if anyone had any questions or issues before the next meeting on Wednesday at noon.

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