

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (02/19/2025)

Quick recap

Debbie led a meeting discussing the budget, potential issues for non-related guardians providing services, and the state and federal budgets. She also discussed an executive order focused on childhood illnesses and chronic diseases, concerns about the proposed "best service," and new rules related to the Waiver Work Group. Lastly, she announced an upcoming Department of Developmental Disabilities workforce symposium, the opening of registration for the Ohca convention, and the need for feedback on the Ohio ISP survey.

Next steps

- Providers to inform Debbie Jenkins if they have employees who are guardians for people they serve, either via chat or email.
 - Providers to review the new rules package on extended travel, vehicle modifications, specialized medical equipment and supplies, participant-directed goods and services, and assistive technology, and provide feedback to Debbie Jenkins.
 - Providers to register for the DODD Workforce Symposium on March 26th if interested in attending.
 - Providers to complete and share the Ohio ISP survey with staff who work with the Ohio ISP before the deadline.
 - Providers to share information about OHCA's scholarship program with staff before the March 14th application deadline.
 - Providers to register for OHCA's convention (May 5th-8th) before the early bird deadline to receive free registration.
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Summary

Ohca Dd Member Call Update

Debbie led a meeting for the Ohca Dd Member call, covering various topics including the budget and potential issues for non-related guardians providing services. She highlighted a section of the budget language that could prohibit non-related guardians from providing services, and requested feedback from members on any concerns or situations related to this. She also mentioned that Director Houck's testimony is scheduled for the following week, and the possibility of having a panel from the Dd Budget coalition testify after her. Debbie indicated that the meeting schedule might need to be flexible due to the ongoing budget process and potential hearings.

Federal Budgets and Medicaid Funding

Debbie discussed the state and federal budgets, emphasizing the need to maintain existing funding and advocate for additional funding and rate increases. She noted the Senate's progress on their budget resolution and the House's recess, highlighting the need for both chambers to agree on a final budget. Debbie also mentioned the potential impact of budget cuts on Medicaid and the need to find savings without affecting major programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. She concluded by stating that the Federal Government will need to address the fiscal year 25 budget by March 14th, and it's likely they will extend the current continuing resolution.

Executive Order on Childhood Illnesses

Debbie discussed an executive order titled "Make America Healthy Again," which focuses on childhood illnesses and chronic diseases. She mentioned that the order doesn't have specific actions but encourages federal agencies to consider these issues in their policies and regulations. She also noted that the order establishes a commission to assess the situation within 100 days. Debbie further mentioned that Robert Kennedy Jr. has been confirmed as the HHS secretary, which may lead to more developments from CMS. She also mentioned that the CMS administrator's position is still pending, with Dr. Oz being considered for the role.

Debbie's Uncertainty on Best Service Proposal

Debbie discussed concerns about the proposed "best service" to replace vocational habilitation and group employment supports, scheduled for July 1, 2025. The proposal aimed to remove community integration options from the best service and group employment supports. However, after receiving concerns, the department decided to not move forward with the proposed "best rule" and will consider the best path forward. There's uncertainty about the future of the new "best service" and concerns about the definition of community integration. Debbie asked providers to report any issues regarding community integration.

New Waiver Work Group Rules

Debbie discussed new rules related to the Waiver Work Group, including a new rule for extended travel (51, 23, 9, 0 8), a new rule for vehicle modifications (51, 23, dash, 9, dash, 44), and an amendment to the assistive technology rule (9 12) to include the availability of service animals. She also mentioned a memo from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) rescinding a previous memo that intended to go after employers with non-compete clauses, which is seen as a positive development. Debbie encouraged team members to review the new rules and provide feedback.

Upcoming Developmental Disabilities Symposium and Updates

Debbie discussed the upcoming Department of Developmental Disabilities workforce symposium on March 26, where grant recipients will present their projects. She encouraged staff to register for the event, as there is a limited capacity. Debbie also reminded the team to provide feedback on the Ohio ISP survey, emphasizing the

importance of multiple responses to identify patterns and trends. She also announced the opening of registration for the Ohca convention, which will be held from May 5th to 8th, and encouraged staff to register before the early bird deadline to avail of the free registration. Lastly, she mentioned that the next call would be skipped due to director Houck's testimony and assured that updates would be sent via email.

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