

## Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (03/19/2025)

### Quick recap

Debbie provided updates on the state budget process, the amendment submitted for rate increases, and the resolution of issues with billing for non-medical transportation for competitive integrated employment. She also discussed the upcoming changes to the waiver program, the formation of a collaborative group to address concerns about remote support services, and the deadline for submitting information in the Outcome Tracking System. Lastly, she announced the cancellation of the next week's meeting due to the Workforce Symposium and encouraged the team to attend.

### Next steps

- Providers to submit cost reports for ICFs by the end of the month or request an extension through the ICF email box.
- Providers to complete reporting in the Outcome Tracking System for employment-related services by the end of the month.
- Providers to notify Debbie of any large recoupments or issues with PNM claim submissions if they occur.
- Providers to reach out to Debbie with any concerns or input regarding remote supports improvements.
- Providers to register for the DD Workforce Symposium if interested in attending next Wednesday.

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### Summary

#### OHCA DD Member Budget Update

Debbie welcomed everyone to the OHCA DD Member call and provided an update on the state budget process. She mentioned that the Finance Committee held hearings on the budget, with a significant portion of Wednesday taken up by the state of the State address. Despite constraints on testimony, Debbie and others were able to present their concerns, including the need for increased funding for direct support professionals and the impact of Dsps on people's lives. Written testimony was also submitted, and some members of the Finance Committee had previously heard about these issues.

#### Rate Increases in State Budget

Debbie provides an update on the state budget process and the amendment submitted for rate increases. The amendment requests a 3.4% increase starting January 1, 2026, and a 2.3% increase starting January 1, 2027. It also includes language requiring the Department of Developmental Disabilities to create a mechanism for obtaining and analyzing cost data from waiver providers. The budget process timeline is outlined, with

the House expected to pass their version by April 9th before it moves to the Senate. Debbie emphasizes the importance of including rate increases to avoid workforce issues, as DSPs could go 3.5 years without raises if no increases are included in this budget.

### **Icf Reimbursement Work Group Meeting**

Debbie informed the team about the resolution of issues with billing for non-medical transportation for competitive integrated employment. She also announced the first meeting of the Icf Reimbursement Work group, which will address various concerns and issues related to Icf reimbursement. Debbie reminded the Icf providers that cost reports are due at the end of the month and encouraged them to request an extension if needed. She also asked the team about any ongoing issues with large recoupments or problems with Pnm claim submissions. Lastly, she provided updates from the Waiver Work Group meeting, which focused on the upcoming waiver amendments for July 1.

### **Waiver Program Changes Discussed**

Debbie discussed the upcoming changes to the waiver program, including the creation of a new vehicle modification rule, the addition of service animals to the Assistive Technology Service, and a new rule for extended travel or leave. She noted that the proposed rule for extended leave requires notification of the SSA if someone is gone for more than four nights, but there was a suggestion to increase this to seven nights. Debbie clarified that these changes would only apply to individuals receiving services while out of state or out of the country, not for regularly scheduled services. She encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to reach out to her.

### **Collaborative Group for Remote Support**

Debbie discussed the formation of a collaborative group involving associations, providers, and remote support vendors to address concerns and improve remote support services. She also reminded the team about the deadline for submitting information in the Outcome Tracking System and asked about any new issues with the Ohio ISP. Debbie announced the cancellation of the next week's meeting due to the Workforce Symposium and encouraged the team to attend. She also mentioned that the team's weekly newsletters will continue to provide updates on various topics.

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