

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (04/02/2025)

Quick recap

Debbie provided updates on the state and federal budget processes, including the ongoing debate about the budget resolution and reconciliation process, and the potential cuts to Federal grants. She also discussed the outcomes of the Waiver Modernization Group meeting, the implementation of a timeline for claims denials by the Department of Medicaid, and the upcoming requirement for multi-factor authentication to access PNM. Lastly, she informed the team about the upcoming OHCA convention and encouraged them to register.

Next steps

- Providers to review the revised agency compliance tool and provide feedback to DODD by June 1st.
 - Providers offering HPC, homemaker personal care, and waiver nursing services to review their EVV compliance and make necessary adjustments before October 1st.
 - Staff with access to PNM to set up multi-factor authentication before May 4th.
 - Providers to share any ICF survey issues with OHCA within the next week for the upcoming meeting with the Department of Health.
 - Providers to consider registering for the OHCA convention from May 5th to 8th at the Columbus Convention Center.
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Summary

State and Federal Budget Updates

Debbie provides an update on the state budget process and federal budget reconciliation. At the state level, the House released a substitute bill that did not include requested amendments for waiver rate increases, though it maintained the ICF formula and professional workforce development add-on. The personal needs allowance for ICF residents was increased to \$75 per month, less than originally proposed. At the federal level, there is ongoing debate about the budget resolution and reconciliation process, with uncertainty around how to address tax cut extensions and potential Medicaid cuts. Advocacy efforts continue at both state and federal levels to push for needed funding and support for DD services.

Federal Cuts and Medicaid Impact

Debbie discussed the recent announcement of employee cuts at the Federal level, particularly at HHS, with a focus on non-consumer facing functions and the reduction of agencies. She noted that CMS, which oversees Medicaid, is expected to have fewer cuts, which should not significantly impact Medicaid services or State plan

amendments. Debbie also mentioned potential cuts to Federal grants, including Arpa funds, and urged monitoring to ensure none of these funds are pulled back. She clarified that most Arpa grants are completed from her perspective, but there are still state funds to be spent.

Waiver Modernization Group Meeting Outcomes

Debbie discussed the outcomes of the Waiver Modernization Group meeting, where Deloitte presented their review of assessment tools. The department is considering both the SIS and the Inner Rai for future use, with a focus on setting acuity-based rates. The department no longer has Arpa dollars to fund a contract, which may impact the timeline. The ICF Reimbursement Work group will reconvene to discuss potential changes if the DDP goes away. Debbie also shared the revised agency compliance tool, which is now available for review and feedback.

Evv Implementation and Denial Timeline

Debbie discussed the implementation of a timeline for claims denials by the Department of Medicaid, starting with home health services on March 1st and moving to other services, including the Dodd Waiver services on October 1st. She highlighted that only about 40% of claims currently have matching Electronic Visit Verification (Evv) records, which would result in 60% of claims being denied if the denial set was in place. Debbie emphasized the importance of providers, especially those providing home health services and waiver nursing, to use Evv and adjust their records to avoid denials. She also mentioned that an amendment is being worked on to prevent the State from doing these upfront denials. Debbie urged providers to review their claims and make necessary adjustments to avoid denials.

Multi-Factor Authentication Deadline Reminder

Debbie informed the team about the upcoming requirement from the Department of Medicaid for multi-factor authentication to access PNM from May 4th. She advised staff to set up their multi-factor authentication before the deadline to avoid access issues. Debbie also invited the team to share any ICF survey issues or concerns for discussion in the quarterly meeting with the Department of Health. Lastly, she reminded the team about the upcoming OHCA convention from May 5th to 8th and encouraged them to register.

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