

## Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (04/23/2025)

### Quick recap

Debbie provided updates on the federal budget process, including the potential for deep cuts to Medicaid and the impact of tax cuts extension, and discussed various federal updates, including the Medicaid access role, Hcbs settings role, and Medicaid payment transparency rules. Pete discussed the challenging budget environment, the potential impact of a flat income tax on state revenue, and the ongoing issues with payment and the upcoming requirement for multi-factor authentication to access PNM. Jason discussed the draft rule for the Icf peer group 6 Rule meeting with Dodd, the new peer group and its methodology, and the ongoing issues with ICF recertification surveys in Ohio.

### Next steps

- Providers to complete and submit the annual DSP compensation survey by June 25th.
- Providers to set up multi-factor authentication for PNM access before May 4th.
- ICF providers to update owner and managing employee information in PNM if there have been any changes.
- OHCA to analyze provider-specific data for the proposed ICF reimbursement methodology changes.
- OHCA to continue advocating for waiver rate increases and a rate review provision in the budget.
- Providers to check their waiver certification renewal dates in the system for potential extensions.
- Providers to start the process early for any Social Security payee changes due to new security measures.

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### Summary

#### Federal Budget Process Update

Debbie provided an update on the federal budget process. She mentioned that the House and Senate are working towards language for the Reconciliation Bill, with a goal to have a draft by the week of May 19th. The timeline for passing the bill has shifted from Memorial Day to sometime over the summer. Debbie also discussed the potential for deep cuts to Medicaid and the impact of the tax cuts extension. She mentioned that the House will review a package next week that includes rescissions of current budget items. Lastly, she shared that the Office of Management and Budget is seeking public input on deregulatory items.

#### Federal Updates and Medicaid Press Conference

Debbie discussed various federal updates, including the Medicaid access role, Hcbs settings role, and Medicaid payment transparency rules. She also mentioned the upcoming request for information due by May 12th. Debbie addressed the recent press conference by Rfk. Jr. regarding autism and its potential impact on services. She also mentioned the Dsp compensation survey opened by Dodd and the recoupment issues with the Department of Medicaid. Debbie asked for feedback and clarification on these topics and encouraged providers to review the compensation survey and report any discrepancies.

### **Payment Issues and Budget Updates**

Debbie discussed the ongoing issues with payment and the upcoming requirement for multi-factor authentication to access PNM from May 4th. She also reminded the team to update their provider agreements if there have been changes in the owners or managing employees. Pete then provided an update on the budget, mentioning the waiting period for the General Assembly and the upcoming Senate hearings. He also discussed the advocacy efforts for the ICF reimbursement items and the lack of action on waiver rates.

### **Budget Challenges and ICF Reimbursement**

Pete discussed the challenging budget environment, with a focus on Medicaid and additional tax cuts. He expressed concerns about the potential impact of a flat income tax on state revenue and the difficulty of securing additional spending. Pete also mentioned the possibility of a rate review provision for Medicaid in the future. He then shifted the discussion to the ICF Reimbursement Work Group, which had reconvened after a few years. The group had two meetings, with the second one focusing on Deloitte's proposed new methodology for direct care in the ICF rate. Pete noted that the decision was not final and would be discussed further in the work group.

### **ICFS Assessment and Reimbursement Changes**

Pete and Debbie discussed a potential shift in the assessment and reimbursement system for ICFS and waiver services. The current system, which uses the Oddp assessment, is being replaced with a cost-per-day approach, where providers are reimbursed based on their daily spending. This new system aims to simplify the process and reduce the need for assessments, but it may lead to increased costs if providers are not incentivized to control their spending. The team is analyzing the data and will continue to monitor the situation.

### **Peer Group 6 Rule Discussion**

Jason discussed the draft rule for the Icf peer group 6 Rule meeting with Dodd. The goal is to add more residential choices for families to serve MSY kids, as the current 6-month period of supports is often insufficient. The rule aims to provide longer term options, potentially merging lbsrao with this rule. The funding for Peer Group 6 is intended to reflect the staffing and expense levels of serving youth with specific

behavioral support needs. However, the rule reduces the permissible capacity from 6 bed homes to 5 bed homes, which is concerning for providers. Jason also mentioned that Dodd controls the admissions and discharges, which should not affect the capacity issue. The conversation ended with the need for another meeting to discuss further.

### **New Peer Group Methodology Discussion**

Jason discussed the new peer group and its methodology, which would be similar to the other peer groups but with a focus on providers with similar costs. Debbie clarified that the new peer group would set ceilings and provide a smaller add-on for a shorter period. Rosemary raised concerns about the small sample size in previous peer groups and the high costs of the lbs. Debbie acknowledged these challenges and the need for more providers to become service providers for children with intensive behavioral needs.

### **ICF Recertification Survey Issues Discussed**

Jason discussed the ongoing issues with ICF recertification surveys in Ohio, noting that 65% of ICFs have gone 13 months or more since their last survey, and Ohio accounts for 1/3 of the surveys nationwide that are over 16 months old. Jill Shank from Ohio Department of Health (ODH) reported that they had completed 27 annual surveys in February and 27 more in March, but no clear plan was shared to get all ICFs within the 12 to 15.9 month recertification schedule. Jason also mentioned concerns about consistency among surveyors and the need for training. Debbie added that there's an issue with the "place on the path to employment" syncing up with the Ohio ISP, and a workaround has been provided. She also mentioned that the Social Security Administration is adding extra security to their telephone system, which may cause issues with changing payees for residents.

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