

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (06/18/2025)

Quick recap

Debbie provided updates on the state budget process, noting that while DD services remained largely unchanged, there were some differences between the House and Senate versions that could be addressed in Conference Committee. She discussed concerns about the federal budget reconciliation process, particularly regarding Medicaid savings and provider taxes, while noting that any leadership changes at the director level would likely be minimal in the near term. The conversation ended with updates on CMS policy changes regarding survey results and vaccination documentation requirements, along with a reminder about the upcoming DSP Compensation survey deadline.

Next steps

- [Debbie to provide an update on the Federal budget reconciliation process next week.](#)
- [Debbie to share any updates on Director Houck's replacement when information becomes available.](#)
- [Debbie to inform members about Cms's response regarding the ICF COVID-19 vaccination documentation requirements.](#)
- [Jason to provide an update on the percentage of providers who have completed the DSP Compensation survey after June 25th.](#)
- [IDD providers to complete the DSP Compensation survey by June 25th if not already done.](#)

Summary

State Budget Process Update

Debbie provided updates on the state budget process, noting that the Senate passed House Bill 96, which is now in Conference Committee. She explained that while there were no significant changes to DD services, including no budget increases or rate adjustments, the ICF formula and professional workforce development add-on remained intact. Debbie highlighted that the patient needs allowance for ICF residents was reduced from \$75 to \$50 in the Senate version, a difference they plan to advocate for. She also mentioned the addition of a sustainability committee in the Senate version, which is not in the House version, and noted that Conference Committee could introduce new elements. Debbie expected floor votes on the bill by June 25, with the possibility of gubernatorial line-item vetoes.

Medicaid Budget Reconciliation Update

Debbie provided an update on the federal budget reconciliation process, highlighting concerns about the Senate Finance Committee's language, which includes deeper Medicaid savings than initially anticipated. She explained that the Senate proposal treats expansion states differently, reducing the hospital provider tax from 6% to 3.5% over time, while excluding ICF and nursing home provider taxes. Debbie noted that this language may be a negotiating tactic to prove to conservative budget hawks that deeper cuts are not

feasible, and she expects potential changes to the language in the coming weeks. The goal remains to pass the budget reconciliation bill before the July 4th deadline, allowing time to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions before the August recess.

Director Houck's Retirement Announcement

Debbie announced Director Houck's retirement, citing personal reasons including family commitments and a challenging commute. She noted that while there are internal candidates being considered, no replacement has been announced yet. Debbie reassured the group that any changes in leadership would likely be minimal over the next year and a half, as a new governor would likely wait to appoint their own representative.

CMS Policy Updates and Surveys

Debbie informed the team about CMS's new policy regarding the release of 2567 survey results, which are now considered public records and can be released immediately, though this won't significantly change current processes. She also discussed a confusing new CMS information collection notice regarding COVID-19 vaccination documentation requirements for ICF providers, which she has questioned with CMS for clarification. Jason reminded attendees that the DSP Compensation survey is due June 25th, with 34% of providers having already completed it.

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