

Meeting summary for ID/DD Member Call (07/16/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting covered updates on federal funding and provider tax changes, including discussions about ICF rates, Medicaid funding modifications, and the potential impact of state-level care criteria changes. Remote support service providers raised concerns about proposed rules that could restrict flexibility and innovation, while Debbie and Jason emphasized the need to modernize these rules to better reflect evolving service models. The group also discussed upcoming events including the Ohio Tech Summit and DSP Recognition event, while noting that next week's meeting would be canceled due to attendance at the Anchor ICF retreat.

Next steps

- Ohca members to review the draft rules for remote supports and assistive technology services and provide feedback to Ohca.
- Ohca to update members on the outcome of the Technology First Task Force meeting regarding remote supports and assistive technology services rules in Friday's news byte.
- Ohca members to consider registering for the 2025 Ohio Tech Summit on September 12th.
- Ohca members to consider sending DSPs to the OADSP 2025 DSP Recognition event on September 12th.

Summary

Federal Budget and ICF Updates

Debbie provided a federal update, noting that ICF rates are not yet available, with Ashley Mckenney indicating they should be ready by the end of July or early August. Debbie also discussed the recently passed budget reconciliation bill, which includes changes to provider taxes for Medicaid funding, though many questions remain about its implementation. She encouraged members to continue sharing community events on Facebook to demonstrate the full lives of individuals receiving services.

ICF Provider Tax Reduction Concerns

Debbie explained that while the ICF franchise permit fee remains frozen, there are concerns about the reduction in the maximum percentage of provider tax that can be charged to tax groups outside of skilled nursing and ICF. She noted that the hospital provider tax increase, intended to fund direct care worker rate increases, may not have an immediate impact due to the gradual reduction in the percentage over time. Debbie also discussed the potential impact of the managed care provider tax waiver expiration, emphasizing the need for a three-year transition period as requested in their comments to CMS. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of long-term sustainability in the DD system and the need to consider service provision and funding strategies in the future.

State Care Criteria and Waivers

Debbie discussed the potential impact of the Reconciliation Bill on state-level care criteria, specifically the possibility of states requesting and creating 1915 C waivers for individuals with a level of care lower than institutional standards. She expressed concern that states might tighten their current level of care criteria, making it harder for individuals to qualify for institutional care, while simultaneously creating new waivers with different criteria. Debbie emphasized that this is a developing situation and that more information will be available as administrative agencies provide guidance. She encouraged monitoring this issue, particularly for ICF providers, as it could affect access to institutional care.

Federal Rescission Package Update

Debbie provided an update on the Federal rescission package, which must be passed by Friday or the process will start over. She explained that while the package does not directly impact Medicaid services, there are concerns about funding for other disability-related programs and services. Debbie encouraged monitoring news updates and noted that some advocacy efforts are underway to educate Congress about the value of these services.

ICF Transition and Safety Grants

Debbie and Gina discussed the possibility of individuals transitioning from waiver settings to ICFs based on their level of care needs, noting that Ohio's current system allows for flexibility in such transitions. Debbie explained that while this approach is not common, it aligns with existing criteria for skilled care and could be implemented in the future, potentially influenced by advocacy and legal considerations. Debbie also shared information about Bureau of Workers' Comp safety grants, encouraging providers to consider applying for funding to enhance safety measures in their facilities. Jason mentioned that the Department of Developmental Disabilities would be discussing proposed changes to rules governing remote supports and assistive technology services in an upcoming in-person meeting.

Remote Support Rules Raise Concerns

Jason explained that a group of remote support vendors met to discuss newly proposed rules, which surprisingly overlooked their previous feedback. A key concern is the requirement for centralized monitoring of RS services, which could create infrastructure and financial burdens for smaller providers. The group is concerned about the lack of flexibility and person-centered innovation in the rule, as well as the addition of new verification steps and testing mandates. They also raised issues about contractual directions between RS vendors and HPC backup providers, and the rule's failure to address shared staffing in congregate settings.

Remote Support Rules Modernization Discussion

Jason and Debbie discussed the need to revise and modernize current draft rules for remote support services to better reflect the evolving service model and encourage independence for individuals. They emphasized the importance of feedback from providers and the need for flexibility in the rules to adapt to rapid

technological changes. Debbie highlighted Ohio's leadership in technology and the potential for innovative solutions that could be cost-effective. The group planned to review the draft rules at an upcoming technology task force meeting and continue to provide feedback to improve the service.

[Flexible Compliance Review Approach](#)

Debbie and Michelle discussed the importance of maintaining flexibility in compliance reviews while ensuring service providers adhere to necessary guidelines. Debbie emphasized that stricter rules should not be implemented solely due to compliance issues, and instead, the focus should be on correcting inappropriate behaviors through compliance reviews. Chelsea highlighted a contradiction in the guidelines, noting that practices once encouraged are now considered exploitative, which creates confusion for providers. Debbie acknowledged this issue and suggested reviewing the guidelines on a case-by-case basis to ensure they align with the individuals' preferences and fair compensation.

[Ohio Tech Summit Registration Announced](#)

Jason announced the opening of registration for the 2025 Ohio Tech Summit on September 12th at the Conference Center in Dublin, featuring keynote speaker Rylan Rogers from Microsoft. He also promoted the DSP Recognition event on the same day at the McCoy Center in Hilliard, highlighting its agenda and the presence of a cake maker and an American ninja warrior competitor. Debbie encouraged attendance at the DSP Recognition event, describing it as an opportunity to reward and recognize Direct Support Professionals. Jason informed the group that next week's meeting would be canceled due to their attendance at the Anchor ICF retreat in Minnesota.

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