

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (02/20/2024)

Quick recap

The team discussed the registration process for the upcoming convention, with pete clarifying that registration is now open and discounts are applied automatically. pete announced the unexpected retirement of Mark Parkinson, CEO of Akka and Cal, and shared that a national search for a new CEO is underway. Erin provided updates on issues with provider payments, including the release of pending claims and potential mass claim adjustments. The team also discussed potential litigation against the department of Medicaid over rate reconsideration requests, and filed a petition for a writ of mandamus. The meeting also covered topics related to Medicaid reimbursement, including events and private rooms.

Summary

Zoom Meeting Procedure and Music Trivia

pete and Mandy initiated the meeting, with Mandy explaining the procedure for interaction via the Zoom platform or phone line. pete thanked everyone for joining and noted the presence of multiple team members. Mandy then handed over the meeting to pete, who expressed his intention to start with some music trivia.

Convention Registration and Discounts Clarified

pete announced that registration for the upcoming convention is now open, including the option to reserve hotel rooms. He emphasized that there will be no coupon codes this year, with discounts applied automatically to those who log in with their username and password. pete also clarified that while free registrations are still available for members who register by the early bird deadline, after that date it operates as a discount. This change is intended to help organizers better manage session placement based on attendance numbers. Joe clarified that late registrants would receive a discount equivalent to the early bird amount.

CEO Retirement and Mandamus Petition

pete announced the unexpected retirement of Mark Parkinson, CEO of Akka and Cal, who originally planned to retire in 2024. A national search is underway to find a new CEO by the Akka Convention in October. Mark will continue his duties until then and will be the keynote speaker at the convention. Furthermore, pete shared that a petition for mandamus against the Department of Medicaid was filed last week. pete decided to log off and attempt to log back in, asking Aaron to handle any issues that might arise in his absence, which Erin agreed to assist with.

Provider Payment Updates and Issues

Erin provided updates on the issues with provider payments. She reported that all pending claims from January have been released and paid out. However, she cautioned that there might be mass claim adjustments in February and March to fix previous problems. She also mentioned overpayments in December that might result in \$0 payments in the next two payment cycles. Erin emphasized the need for a graduated payment plan for these recoupments. She also addressed issues with assisted living waiver claims for January, specifically with three health plans. Lastly, she highlighted the importance of memory care certification for providers to avoid payment issues.

Medicaid Rate Reconsideration Litigation Initiated

The team discussed their unsuccessful attempts to persuade the administration to change their rate reconsideration request, and decided to prepare for potential litigation. They collaborated with colleagues from various organizations and filed a petition for a writ of mandamus against the department of Medicaid. The team decided not to involve any provider organizations as plaintiffs. They filed the case directly in the Supreme Court to expedite the process and have given the state a period of 30 days to respond.

Legal Interpretation and Budget Implications

The speaker expressed confidence in their interpretation of a statute, which they believe the State has misinterpreted. They mentioned the potential outcomes of a successful court case, such as the court ordering a recalculation of rates or making the relief retroactive. The speaker also discussed the favorable context of the current budget picture, as Medicaid spending is significantly lower than the budgeted amount. The discussion revolved around an ongoing legal case and its potential impacts on the upcoming budget. Joe inquired about the negotiation strategy and the number of attorneys involved, but specific details were not provided.

Medicaid Reimbursement: Events and Private Rooms Issue

There was a discussion about the issues related to events and private rooms in the context of Medicaid reimbursement. The speaker noted that filing a petition for mandamus had led to a shutdown of communications from the department of Medicaid on rate-related issues. The speaker also highlighted that the department had cancelled a monthly meeting without explanation. The speaker further discussed the state's proposal to no longer allow billing for non-invasive events and expressed the intention to continue advocacy work with the department despite the communication breakdown. The speaker emphasized that the proposed rule was still in its draft stage and had not been finalized yet.

Claims, Auditing, State Plan Amendment, Private Rooms

There was a discussion about the lack of distinction between invasive and non-invasive events on claims, and the speaker expressed the belief that there is no reason for the state to deny non-advanced events. The speaker also addressed the potential risk of auditing and the risk to individuals if the process stops. Regarding private rooms, the

speaker noted that there is no information about the state's plan amendment and that it could take up to 90 days for approval. The speaker also mentioned the possibility of delaying the filing of the state plan amendment due to litigation. The speaker concluded by stating that the application process for private rooms should open up soon.

Private Room Status and Application Process Uncertainty

The meeting discussed the status of category 1 and 2 rooms, with an estimated 24,000 private rooms already applied for. There was uncertainty about the number of additional category 1 applications received since the last count, but it was suggested that there might still be room for a few thousand category 2 rooms. The meeting also touched on the application process for both categories and the lack of clarity on the process and timeline. There were concerns raised about the risk of continuing to admit under the current circumstances. The possibility of cancelling next week's meeting due to the host's out-of-town conference was also mentioned.

Next steps

Next steps were not generated due to insufficient transcript.

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