

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (06/11/2024)

Quick recap

pete discussed the increase in legislative activity, focusing on key bills such as those related to childhood immunizations, certificate of need process, and workforce amendments. He also provided updates on the State Plan amendment for private rooms, the freeze on the Quality Management System, and the impending deadline for calculating rates. Lastly, the team discussed upcoming changes to the healthcare system, the status of the Damas case, and planned for another meeting in the following week.

Next steps

- Providers who were one-star facilities when they applied for the private room incentive but have since improved their rating to submit a new application to the State.
- Providers to learn how to use the new system for billing claims and other functions after the MDS system is decommissioned on June 30th.
- Assisted living providers to complete the survey from the Department of Aging indicating the percentage of Medicaid residents in the past fiscal year to qualify for the critical access rate.
- Managed care plans to submit notice of intent to apply for the new version of MyCare Ohio by June 21st.
- Managed care plans to submit their applications for the new version of MyCare Ohio by August 2nd.

Summary

Legislative Activity Update and Senate Bill 144

pete announced that there were 65 participants. He encouraged questions and comments from attendees before delving into the main topic of legislative activity. pete highlighted an increase in legislative activity in 2024, with multiple committees meeting and various bills being considered. He specifically mentioned Senate Bill 144, which had already passed the Senate and was under consideration by the House Health Provider Services Committee, chaired by Al Katrona. pete noted that the committee was expected to take up a sub-bill that afternoon.

Discussing Legislation for Healthcare Improvements

pete discussed three main pieces of legislation. The first, Senate Bill 144, aimed to extend the opportunity for childhood immunizations at local pharmacies after the end of the federal pandemic era. The second piece of legislation addressed issues with the current certificate of need process, seeking to reform it to better allocate beds between

counties and to open up certificate of need a little more. The third piece of legislation involved amendments to the workforce, focusing on medication aid and nurse training programs, as well as quality improvement projects, with the aim to make these more accessible and beneficial for staffing improvement.

Pete's Legislative and Quality Incentives Update

pete discussed the substitute bill that is expected to be adopted but may still encounter issues in the legislative process. He provided an update on the State Plan amendment for private rooms, which is under review by CMS and may potentially see positive action soon. He also clarified the procedure for facilities that have improved their ratings and stressed the importance of submitting applications promptly. Lastly, he mentioned that new information about quality incentive calculations and the July 1 rate setting would be available soon.

QMS Freeze and Staffing Measure Discussion

pete discussed the freeze on the Quality Management System (QMS) due to insufficient data for the new version of the Mds, which was introduced in the fourth quarter of 2023. He clarified that the state would calculate quality points based on the last four unfrozen quarters, starting from 2022, and that the QMS based Qms would have data from the entire year, including the fourth quarter of 2024. pete also mentioned that the staffing measure had to be frozen due to the fact that it has two parts, the reported staffing and the adjusted staffing, with the latter being calculated using the Mds. However, he noted that the customer managed care (CMS) does not calculate a 4-quarter average for staffing. Despite these methodological issues, pete expected the state to decide on the method for calculating the 4-quarter average soon.

Deadline Discussion and Federal Updates

pete discussed the impending deadline for calculating rates and potential issues with the process. Meanwhile, Debbie provided updates on Federal rules, specifically focusing on two ongoing legal cases. The first case is a lawsuit filed by the US Chamber of Commerce and Ryan, LLC against the minimum staffing rule, and the second case concerns the Department of Labor's overtime rule. pete then reminded the team about updates and reminders related to enhanced barrier precautions from the CDC.

Upcoming Healthcare Changes and Training

pete and Mandy discussed upcoming changes to the healthcare system, specifically for skilled nursing facilities. Mandy clarified that residents cannot refuse Ebps, while pete emphasized the approaching deadline for the switch from Mets to Mids. He advised the team to familiarize themselves with the new system and highlighted the availability of training, as well as a potential fail-safe for any system flaws. pete also mentioned the upcoming critical access rate for assisted living members and the request for applications for the new version of MyCare Ohio. He stressed that existing plans have

an advantage in the application process and that they are working to protect provider members.

Damas Case Update and NBA Talk

pete shared that there was no update on the Damas case, as the legal counsel was uncertain about the Supreme Court's decision due to the court's cryptic nature. The team was waiting for the court's verdict, which had been pending for two months. Additionally, Blake briefly joined the meeting to support the Celtics and discussed the history of NBA planning with pete. The team planned another meeting for the following week, with the timing to be confirmed over the weekend.

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