

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (06/18/2024)

Quick recap

pete shared updates on the progress of House Bill 144 and Senate Bill 144, as well as changes in the certificate of need in Ohio and the approval of the State of Ohio Private Room State Plan amendment. Mandy discussed social media policy consents, the approval of the Mepap course, and updates related to assisted living. The team also discussed the requirement for providers to report their total census and Medicaid census, the approval process for using the Critical Access Rate for Medicaid residents, and the upcoming calculation of rates.

Next steps

- Skilled nursing facility providers to submit application for private room approval if they were a 1-star provider at the time of initial application and are no longer a 1-star provider.
- Assisted living providers to submit the critical access tool and attestation to Meredith Thinly at the Department of Aging by June 24th to be eligible for the critical access rate.
- Skilled nursing facility providers experiencing claims delays to provide the NPI numbers of affected buildings to Erin at OHCA.
- Skilled nursing facility providers to review the updated facility assessment QSO document posted by CMS.
- Skilled nursing facility providers interested in the MEPAP course to contact OHCA for enrollment.

Summary

Ohca Sniff Member Call With Pete's News

Mandy started the Ohca sniff member call, welcoming participants and explaining how to interact during the call. pete joined the meeting and was set to share some news, which he wanted to ensure everyone had a chance to hear before he shared it. The meeting continued with Mandy turning the discussion to pete.

House Bill 144 and Senate Bill 144 Progress

pete discussed the progress of House Bill 144 and Senate Bill 144 in the Health Provider Services Committee. The bills, which initially focused on childhood immunizations, evolved into vehicles for other provisions after gaining support from German Skilled Nursing as a means to incorporate new items. Despite opposition from one committee member, the bills passed unanimously with amendments to smooth loose edges. Both houses are set to review the bills on the upcoming Wednesday, with Senate approval expected on the same day due to their concurrent sessions. pete

indicated the administration's non-opposition to the bills, but the skilled nursing team's involvement was described as active engagement rather than outright support. The main component of interest for skilled nursing is the Workforce Amendment.

Ohio Certificate of Need Discussion

pete discussed the certificate of need in Ohio, explaining that every four years, the state calculates the bed needs in all counties and compares it to the bed capacity. He noted that most counties are overbedded, but some, particularly those with growing populations, are underbedded. He also mentioned a change in legislation that cancels out any bed need or shortage if a county's average occupancy is under 85%, based on past information. However, he pointed out that this no longer applies if the bed need or shortage is greater than 60 beds in eight specific counties, allowing for the resumption of bed transfers between overbedded and underbedded counties.

CLN Amendment and Employment Updates

pete discussed the CLN amendment, which would become effective in early October if signed by the governor in July, and addressed related schedule adjustments for Cos. He also explained the necessity of technical corrections in the language following issues with the original legislation. Additionally, he outlined a proposed bill aimed at relaxing some restrictions around medication aids and nursing assistance, with Mandy providing a list of existing programs in Ohio. Lastly, he touched on employment-related updates, including an increase in the time for conditional employment and changes to the Quality Improvement Project.

Ohio Private Room State Plan Approval

pete announced that the State of Ohio Private Room State Plan amendment was approved, enabling the state to move forward with approving applications. He advised those who had filed for 1 and 2 star provider status to apply for approval immediately, as the state might start approving applications soon. He also mentioned a potential backdating of the approval to April 1st, with payments scheduled to begin October 1st following a six-month statutory waiting period. Lastly, he highlighted the need for revenue and value codes, as well as system programming for payment processing. Mandy then took over to share additional updates.

Social Media Policy and Mepap Course Approval

Mandy addressed the challenges of social media policy consents for resident images and shared that their legal team advised obtaining initial consent at admission and for every image shared. She then announced the approval of the Mepap course by the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals, highlighting its importance for skilled nursing facility providers as a requirement both federally and in Ohio. Mandy also clarified their current social media and photography consent practices, confirming that they only obtain one signed consent and do not request subsequent consents, with

photos only taken upon admission and after verbal consent. pete confirmed this as his understanding of their standard practice.

Private Room Payment and Assisted Living Updates

Mandy sought feedback from the team, and pete clarified a question regarding the private room additional payment, confirming it would start from October 1 and would not be retroactive. He also mentioned the state's intent to post the actual spa soon. Additionally, pete discussed updates related to assisted living, stating that the state started distributing tools for providers to apply for a critical access add-on to the waiver rate. He apologized for not sharing the links to these resources earlier.

Medicaid Census Reporting Requirements Discussed

pete explained the state's requirement for providers to report their total census and Medicaid census daily for the past fiscal year, emphasizing that a minimum of 50% Medicaid census was needed over the 365-day period to qualify. He clarified that providers could use their own financial system to generate this data, rather than the state's protected spreadsheet, and that the information should be emailed to Meredith at the Department of Aging. Despite some technical issues, pete reassured that the state was not looking to be difficult and would work with providers if their Medicaid census increased towards the end of the fiscal year.

Critical Access Rate for Medicaid Residents

pete discussed the approval process for using the Critical Access Rate for Medicaid residents, which requires redrafting contracts and service plans. He clarified that this rate applies to all Medicaid residents within a facility, not just those receiving specific services. He also mentioned that the Skilled Nursing Rates related to Critical Access will take effect on July 1st, with the state calculating a staffing number for each facility, though the exact methodology is unknown. Mandy confirmed that the facility assessment QSO has been updated and posted.

Upcoming Rates, Occupancy Rates, and Claims Delays

pete discussed the upcoming calculation of rates, emphasizing that the rates wouldn't be ready by January and could potentially be delayed until July. He suggested that providers might need to give up licensed beds to improve their occupancy rates, and any adjustments to the calculations wouldn't be published until after July 1st. pete also addressed claims delays, advising members to resubmit claims if they didn't receive an acknowledgement of payment. He asked members to report any affected claims to Erin for further action by the Department of Medicaid. Lastly, he confirmed the next member call for the following week.

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