

Ohio Centers for Intellectual Disabilities
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2018
12:00 Noon, Teleconference

Present: Sherry Rinck, Chair; Karen Knavel, Vice Chair; Joe Kowalski, Rebecca Sharp, Joanna Spargo, Chuck Williams; Debbie Jenkins, Steve Mould, Pete Van Runkle staff.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sherry Rinck; agenda and the association's anti-trust compliance policy was reviewed.

Chair Sherry Rinck informed the Board that there was an open seat on the Board of Directors, and that Rebecca Sharp, Executive Director, Columbus Center for Human Services, had been nominated to fill the position, which will be up for re-election at the Convention in May, 2019. It was moved and seconded to appoint Sharp to the Board; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on a potential change in the name and bylaws for OCID. OHCA is looking to expand into additional areas including home care and hospice; it has been advised that the Association move toward adopting OHCA as the umbrella organization, and dropping individual organizational names. OCID would become the ID/DD arm of OHCA; all other operational features would remain the same. Member of the Board agreed with the recommended changes. The issue will go before the OHCA Board of Directors on Thursday, November 15. An additional meeting of the OCID Board will be needed to approve changes to the bylaws.

Debbie Jenkins discussed the DODD budget process. OHCA/OCID representatives participated in a series of DODD stakeholders meetings, where Director John Martin has been attempting to set a path for the incoming administration and legislature. A set of recommendations will be presented from DODD; it was noted that provider activism will be required to support the ideas and push them forward.

The current proposal, which OHCA supports, would increase provider rates for Homemaker/Personal Care, Adult Day Services, and ICFs/IID to reflect an average wage for direct support personnel (DSPs) of \$13 per hour and \$15 per hour in the two years covered by the budget. This proposal would result in significant provider rate increases because the current rates are based on hourly wages in the \$11 range. The proposal includes an accountability measure requiring providers to disclose wages and benefits paid after implementation of the rate increases. OCID currently is working with other stakeholders on the details of the proposal before submitting it to Director Martin. In addition, the proposal will call for workgroups to develop changes to On Site/On Call and to evaluate a tiered rate structure based on training and experience (similar to the competency-based add-on implemented in the current biennium) for possible use in the future. Please note that at this time, the rate increase proposal is a stakeholder discussion item that still requires agreement of the various organizations and agreement by Director Martin before it is included in the supplemental budget request. As the proposal entails a massive appropriation of Medicaid dollars, strong advocacy will be needed to move it forward to the new state administration and the legislature in next year's budget process.

Discussion was held on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). Ms. Jenkins reported that Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) of Medicaid funded personal care in home visits, which is a federal requirement of the 21st Century Cures Act, is already required in Ohio's home health programs and ID/DD waiver services are next up in Phase 2, which will begin in 2019. Ohio has decided to utilize EVV for DD Medicaid services, and will be required for providers of Waiver Nursing and Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) that is billed in 15 minute units, including services on behalf of an individual. Ms. Jenkins will conduct an education program on November 14 at Altercare Integrated Health Services in North Canton.

Mr. Van Runkle reported on a new "informed consent" lawsuit which would require County Boards to offer ICF services as an option instead of informing individuals/consumers only of waiver availability, or the lack thereof. Initial indications are that we would support the outcomes sought by the lawsuit, but we have not yet been asked to participate. It was also noted that implementation of the waiting list rule seems to be biased toward waivers, and neglects the ICF option.

Mr. Mould reported on the DODD Choking Workgroup, which is an extension of the work done by the DODD MUI workgroup which wrapped up discussions earlier this year. DODD has put together a small group to look at choking data and make recommendations on ways to reduce choking incidents and deaths. So far this year there have been about 300 choking incidents and 18 deaths; DODD reports that most of the deaths were preventable. Inadequate training, failure to realize the dangers of improper diet textures, food stealing by individuals and lack of supervision have all played key roles leading to incidents or deaths. Discussion of the workgroup identified key areas for prevention measures including education, mentoring programs, a focus on individuals with contributing conditions, oral care, and training for SSAs, Qs, managers and team leaders. Additional targeted communication focusing on choking to supplement health and safety alerts will be planned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors are below; additional meetings -- including one to approve any recommended changes in the Bylaws -- may be called by the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Future meetings:

- February 7, 2019 10:00 a.m.
- April 30, 2019 (Convention)
- July 11, 2019 10:00 a.m.
- October 10, 2019 10:00 a.m.