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INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Members (ICC Governor Appointees)

Dana Hutchings, Chair (Absent) Stacy Reinstein, DERS/CCA Amber Neubauer

Members (Subcommittee Appointees)

Leo Huppert (Absent) Kristin Mancuso (Absent) Rosanna Gabaldon Jennifer Ibanez Sylvia Acosta Vance Phillips (Absent) Cristina Renteria Kate Dobler Lauren Encinas Peggy Peixoto Jenee Sisnroy

Staff (AzEIP)

Lisa Casteel Jeremiah Hale

- 1. Call to Order 10:03 a.m.
- 2. Read Public Comment Notice
- 3. Approve Minutes from the November 19, 2021, meeting
 - a. Amber motioned; Jenee seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- 4. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Introduction of New Members
 - i. All present introduced themselves.
 - b. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - An update was given on the work group's progress including the background, challenges, and recommended changes. They prefer a more salary type approach as opposed to fee for service.
 - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. The issues regarding billing in FOCUS for long-term care children are ongoing. Providers are working with AAPPD to support these challenges. Authorization issues occur due to system integration problems, delaying payments significantly. This has been elevated to Ginny Rountree, Deputy Director of DES.
 - d. AHCCCS issues
 - i. A survey requesting information regarding AHCCCS related concerns was recently completed by providers. The issues vary between health plans and providers. It was suggested this should be addressed with the Division of Health Care Management. Kate will reach out to Dr. Tack. The results of the survey will be sent to the committee to ensure the new members have all information.
 - ii. Agreements between AzEIP and AHCCCS should be formalized and added to AHCCCS policy. Details regarding the policies were discussed. The policies will be sent to Kate along with a copy of the ICC Fiscal Committee's 2018 letter to AHCCCS.
 - e. Family Guide to Funding
 - i. AzEIP is finalizing the document.
 - f. Possible Legislation / Funding Issues

- i. Stacy recused herself and left the virtual meeting. Background was provided regarding the work of the provider group and this committee. A 90% of benchmark rate is being advocated for by Brandi Petrone of AAPPD, AZ Association of Providers for People with Disabilities, on behalf of the AzEIP providers.
- ii. The ARPA funding and the governor's budget proposal were discussed. Jeremiah shared, "To be precise, the approved increase is 75% through FY22 and for FY23, 75% for all services except therapies which go up to 80%. It's not 80% for all services." The governor's proposal did mention funding for FY24 but did not specify what that would be.
- iii. The legislative email templates, sent to the committee members earlier this week, were shared and discussed. The google link contains the legislative districts, the members, and a count of AzEIP children in each district. The two options are to be used depending on if a meeting has taken place with the legislator. Changes were proposed and incorporated
- iv. Jenee made a motion to approve, and Amber seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- g. Early Childhood Day at the Capitol
 - i. This event is February 24, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.
- h. Federal Legislation Regarding Family Cost
 - i. AzEIP is requesting feedback around potential federal legislation that will further limit family cost for Part C services. It was recommended a survey be sent to the providers to be completed by their billing staff regarding whether co-pays are ever charged to families. The frequency of payments received from HSA's would be an important question to include in the survey.
- i. Parking Lot Items
 - i. Budget Information Request
 - 1. AzEIP submitted a proposal to DES leadership regarding additional information that can be shared.
 - ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds
 - 1. Context and specifics around the use of Part C funds as "glue money" and the "payor of last resort" requirements was shared.
 - iii. Technical Assistance from national TA centers.
 - 1. The following link was shared as a resource: https://ectacenter.org/topics/finance/fiscal101.asp
 - iv. Additional Funding Sources
 - 1. Background around this topic was discussed.
 - v. Fiscal Monitoring
 - 1. Background and updates on this topic was shared.
- 5. Action/follow-up
 - a. The survey results will be re-sent to the committee.
 - b. The 2018 letter to AHCCCS from the Fiscal Committee and any response received to Kate Dobler will be sent.
 - c. An item will be added to next month's agenda to discuss advocating for AHCCCS to match AzEIP rate increases.
- 6. Public Comment
 - a. None
- 7. Schedule Next Meeting
 - a. The meeting will be on February 24, 2022, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- 8. Adjourned at 11:32 am