



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

ICC Fiscal Committee Minutes

Thursday November 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zqc-erup-ggs>

Or dial: (US) +1 475-441-4437 PIN: 151 323 455#

Attendance

Members

Dana Hutchings (Present)
Amber Neubauer (Present)
Stacy Reinstein (Absent)
Leo Huppert (Present)
Kristin Mancuso (Absent)
Senator Rosanna Galbaldon (Absent)
Jennifer Ibanez (Absent)
Sylvia Acosta (Present)
Vance Philips (Absent)
Cristina Renteria (Absent)
Kate Dobler (Present)
Lauren Encinas (Absent)
Peggy Peixoto (Absent)
Jenee Sisnroy (Present)

AzEIP Staff

Lisa Casteel (Present)
Jeremiah Hale (Present)
Caroline Nailor-Oglesby (Present)

Minutes

1. Call to Order 10:05 am by Amber Neubauer
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Read Public Member Notice
4. Minute Approval from August 19, 2022, Meeting
 - Dana Hutchings made the 1st approval of meeting minutes and Leo Huppert seconded the motion to approve. All members say Aye in approval.
5. Discussion Items/topics
 - A. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - AzEIP contractors have been meeting with DDD. Leo stated that there are still authorization gaps in FOCUS. This item can still be on the agenda, but moved to the parking lot, due to recurring issues that still need to be resolved.
 - B. AHCCCS issues
 - Emails were all sent out to all Health Plans. Dana stated that excel spreadsheets from every AHCCCS health plan were created to track issues. Amber states the increased SLP (Speech Therapy) rate has been coming back good but PT (Physical Therapy) and OT (Occupational Therapy) are lagging especially high tier areas which is something that we need to bring up with AHCCCS. Jeremiah states that Ginny is planning to have a meeting to discuss the issues with AHCCCS before the Dec 9th quarterly providers meeting. Jeremiah also states that AHCCCS rates are increased once a year so they won't consider this again until next spring. Ginny may be able to support this as well. Lisa asked if the providers now have a claims contact with each health plan who has AzEIP knowledge Dana states she didn't get much response back for any of the emails she would send out. She started submitting complaints with AHCCCS with the head of AHCCCS and started to get contact claims through that way.. Leo is sending the spreadsheet to Caroline.
 - D. AzEIP Eligibility Changes Subcommittee
 - AzEIP only provides services to kids with significant delays or diagnosed disabilities. We want to start looking into providing services to more children. Lisa stated at AzEIP is supporting the First thing First project i by providing data to be used to determine the cost impact of increasing eligibility. There would be a lot of factors to consider to be able to accomplish this, including budget, policy and procedure changes and provider capacity. The providers might want to see if they can be of help to First Things First . Changes in the political climate could have an impact on this long-term goal. This can be moved to the parking lot.
 - E. Family Guide to Funding Document
 - The document has been posted on the AzEIP website in both English and Spanish. We can take this topic off the agenda. Lisa stated that she ordered printed copies to be available on request.
 - F. AzEIP Conferences 2023 - IDIO etc.

- Jeremiah stated that the IDIO (Improving Data Improving Outcomes) and the OSEP conference are rotated every other year. The goal is to have at least one from every state ICC committee to attend. The IDIO Conference focuses on using your data and financial system to better reach or better outcomes. Lisa did a presentation on Fiscal Monitoring. The larger ICC would need to make a final determination as to who to send and what is available in the budget. Jenee has attended the conference and enjoyed it, attending the conference would benefit with fiscal ICC.

G. 2023 Plans & Goals - AzEIP Support Needs

- Amber wants to get some ideas of what support AzEIP needs to reach their goals. Jeremiah isn't sure if Caroline has anything specific from a strategy standpoint but will follow up with Caroline.

H. Parking Lot Items

a. Service Coordination Billing Approach

- Still parking lot item

b. Budget Information Request

- Leo asked Jeremiah for an update. Jeremiah described the process and how the process worked this last year.

c. Legislative/Funding Issues

- The rate rebase informs the budget process but isn't a guarantee. There will be a new rebase upcoming in 2023 and new benchmarks will be available in January 2024. The provider group will be asking what it would take us up to 100% of the existing benchmarks. AzEIP can provide that information to the provider group.
- Leo asked the non providers, on the committee, what general thoughts or concerns they had regarding the budget process. Christina spoke from the parent group's perspective. Parents are concerned about staff shortages. The new AzEIP rates will hopefully improve provider retention. The AzEIP contractors and families want to know what they can do to support this process. Lisa suggested creating an agenda item of this particular topic. ICC Fiscal Committee Activities to support quality services will be added.

d. Other Funding Sources

- No Updates

6. Action/follow up

- No Updates

7. Public Comment

- No Comment

8. Confirm next meeting date/time

- February 23rd, 2023 10:00am-11:30am. Lisa will send out the next invite to the meeting.

9. Adjourn 11:04 am