



INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

December 17, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Members

Dana Hutchings, Chair
Sara Clancey, EI Provider
Christopher Keck, DCS

Public Members

Amber Neubauer
Leo Huppert
Kristin Mancuso

Staff

Alicia Amundson
Jeremiah Hale
Lisa Casteel

1. Call to Order at 2:03
2. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Family Guide to Funding
 - i. Table until January
 - b. Service Coordination Billing Approach Discussion
 - i. Table until January
 - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. Lisa and Jeremiah attended training with DDD Bus Ops team. Learned a lot about root causes. The providers must go back in to Focus and get the billing replaced before it is handled by Business Ops team. Receiving denials when the authorization is in ITEAMS. The issue is with the transfer of authorization to Focus. DDD Business Ops believes that the cause is Addendums are not crossing over when an existing IFSP in is place. Lisa will reach out to team to determine what the process is to get this worked by business operations team. Is a replacement claim necessary? Can they go into pending status again as in the past instead of automatically denying? Denials for No Authorization go into Pending status. End date outside of authorization is currently the more common denial reason.
 - d. Rate Rebase needs

- i. The meeting with Guidehouse went okay but the concern is that the adjustment seems to be too similar to HCBS. Good information was shared with Guidehouse about the possible changes. There are concerns about the timelines to get these changes implemented. An understanding is needed regarding the schedule for the next steps so that the providers and AAPPD can work on approach for legislative outreach. Hopefully AzEIP team is better supported by Ginny and DES leadership than they were before. Guidehouse is looking at the feedback and working to incorporate that and hope to publish the final report by early January. AzEIP team is working to get DES leadership involved in ICC. Ginny is actively involved in timelines and next steps. Will Ginny be meeting/working with providers directly or through ICC? Alicia's conversations have been involving ICC involvement, but Ginny is looking at regular meetings with providers through ongoing conversations with AAPPD.
- e. Technical assistance
 - i. In general terms, we have been tasked with improving our technical assistance program. We have sent out a technical assistance survey. There has been a clearly identified need for TA around System of Payments which includes but is not limited to billing. Team is working to create Technical Assistance around this topic.
 - ii. Can the providers receive technical assistance from the National TA centers if needed? OSEP funding goes to national TA centers to assist states with implement Part C. There has been discussion for some time around creating a new TA center call Cypher strictly for TA around Fiscal matters. We will be meeting with them in January. Alicia shared out the link to this center's website in the meeting chat. There can be a conversation about supporting through ICC. Fortunately, two of those individuals who are assigned to AzEIP are already familiar with Arizona's system. We need to be certain that all Part C funds are utilized and the DES leadership understands these requirements. A lot of the Fiscal guidance leads back to OMB and overall Federal funding. AzEIP is working to gain a greater understanding of and ability to educate others about our funding guidelines. Feedback and support from the ICC Fiscal committee will be greatly appreciated. Support for Fiscal Requirement for Part C are not as readily available as for Part B. We can report back to this committee after our meeting with the new TA center.
- f. Membership for fiscal committee
 - i. Katie was not able to join today, but she did share that she had suggestions.
- g. Budget Information Request
 - i. Jeremiah presented a slide showing the publicly approved budget for FY20 and FY21 including the breakout between AzEIP GF and IDEA Part C funding. This information is also available in the State Appropriations Report along with a small amount of additional detail. Budget information is not yet available for FY22. The budget for FY22 was submitted in August 2020 and will be published in early January. Any change requests would need to take place after that time. Would the Budget and expenditures be able to be shared moving forward? Jeremiah is working closely with FSA to determine what can be shared.

h. Covid-19

i. The Fiscal Committee is requesting information regarding funding for Covid-19 related costs and future plans for issuing guidance to providers about providing services moving forward. In terms of funding, we are still working through that. Ginny has brought this up with FSA and our fiscal team along with additional data for implementation for guidance. Some counties do not have substantial spread so guidance needs to be issued soon so that providers are prepared when these areas might be ready to move forward. Hopefully, guidance will be available shortly.

i. Fiscal plans for spending of Part C funds

i. The fiscal committee is asking how they can support with how Part C funds could be used to add funding around training. The annual federal grant application will be available for public comment early next year, likely at the end of January. The percentages for allocation of costs for ICC, direct services, and other allowable costs are available in this document. The ICC fiscal committee can then use that opportunity to share their input on those priorities. We are focusing on increasing training moving forward. Lisa and Jeremiah will provide last year's final document to the fiscal committee. AzEIP has increased requirements from a federal standpoint around our Stakeholder engagement including specifics around public comment and how those are to be considered. There has been an increase emphasis on family participation.

j. AHCCCS and new contract with Mercy Care

- i. ACT and its members are being contacted about necessity to sign an agreement to be able to continue providing services. Rise and Sunrise have not been contacted, but it is reported that Dynamite has been. Judith Walker from AHCCCS might be a point of contact to clarify that understand. We would expect that all Health Plans would follow AHCCCS guidelines. AzEIP will discuss this and reach out to AHCCCS to request that TA be providers to the Health Plan. If any other providers are contacted, AzEIP would like to hear about that. Rise already has a contract with Mercy Care.
- ii. Blue Cross and Blue Shield has purchased Health Choice. Similar issues may occur with this purchase as well.
- iii. Speech rates have continued to be an issue. The providers have reached out through AAPPD. The AHCCCS compliance officer responded very quickly. Two health plans have also reached out with acknowledgement of the issues. Communication is still difficult, however. Reprocessing is difficult and very time consuming for providers. The list of AzEIP point of contact individuals with each health plan is available to providers. We can talk about improving communicating this information from their direction. The idea was presented to work with the compliance officer that has reached out to support with the issue. Lisa would be open to the suggestion of having this person present at a Monthly Fiscal Meeting to provide information and hear feedback.

3. Action/Follow-up

- a. Committee needs to come up with a roadmap for plans for next year. This will be added to next meeting's agenda. This would need to be brought up with overall ICC to see how the plan aligns with other committees.
- b. Lisa will follow-up with DDD Business Ops to attempt to streamline process for Focus Authorization issues and also with DTS regarding long-term solutions.
- c. Jeremiah will consult with FSA regarding what additional budget information can be shared with committee.
- d. Jeremiah and Lisa will share the planned percentages for types of expenditures from the Final FFY20 Part C Grant Application.
- e. AzEIP will reach out to AHCCCS regarding providing TA to the individual health plans regarding the unique AzEIP requirements.
- f. The committee will follow-up with the AHCCCS Compliance Officer regarding any additional support she can provide regarding improved communication.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Schedule Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

6. Adjourned at 3:29 pm