



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

ICC Fiscal Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Amber Neubauer, Chair (Present)
Dana Hutchings, ICC Member (Present)
Kelly Lalan, ICC Member (Present)
Sylvia Acosta (Absent)
Lauren Encinas (Present)
Senator Rosanna Galbaldon (Absent)
Leo Huppert (Present)
Kristin Mancuso (Absent)
Peggy Peixoto (Present)

Cristina Renteria (Absent)
Jenee Sisnroy (Present)
Gini Britton (Present)
Christina Quast (Present)
Lisa Casteel, AzEIP Staff (Present)
Jeremiah Hale, AzEIP Staff (Present)
Amanda Honeywood, AzEIP Staff (Present)
Jessica Love, AzEIP Staff (Present)

Minutes

1. Called to Order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Read Public Member Notice
4. Minute Approval from November 9, 2023, meeting
 - Leo Huppert made the motion to approve the minutes. Dana Hutchings seconded the motion. Members voted all in favor as follows:
 - Jenee Sisnroy - yay
 - Peggy Peixoto - yay
 - Dana Hutchings - yay
 - Amber Neubauer - Yay
 - Lauren Encinas - yay
 - Leo Huppert - Yay
 - Christina Quast - Yay
 - Gini Britton - Yay
5. Discussion Items/topics
 - A. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) issues
 - The committee discussed challenges with SLP billing health insurance as a flat billing per session instead of per unit. Arizona Speech-Language Hearing Association (ArSHA) is aware of the concerns, and they are looking into it. When families have

private insurance AzEIP can cover the difference, not possible for families with AHCCCS/ Medicaid. Research can be done to determine what the regulations are and how other states handle the situation. An AzEIP Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin with options and best approach could support more consistency across providers. National TA Centers might be able to provide guidance as well..

- Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) rates are starting to fall behind AzEIP rates, as Speech Language Pathology (SLP) rates had in the past. Jeremiah and AHCCCS are actively discussing this.
- Providers tend to have issues with different plans at different times. Individual contracts with the health plans can be a factor. Kelly Lelan and Christina Quast offered support from their positions with one of the health plans and AHCCCS in general.

B. AzEIP Fiscal Responsibility and Timely Reimbursement

- Last time the committee discussed the letter that was approved by the full ICC and sent out to Ginny. Amber received confirmation that the letter was received but no specific response was provided. Many of the issues have been resolved however requests for payment for services during the transition time have not been resolved. It was decided to move this item to the parking lot.
- Christina offered her support with WellSky/DDD billing issues that may arise in the future, as well.

C. 2023 AzEIP Rate Rebase Study

- The Provider Forum took place on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Contract agencies have and will be providing feedback directly to the Milliman team.
- The approach presented for team conferencing brought up a lot of questions for providers. AzEIP staff shared that Milliman calculated the flat per child rate based on historical billing, including how much has been spent per child per meeting and how frequently a child is discussed in the meetings. AzEIP will utilize this information to determine the best approach for billing. A monthly flat rate, as proposed by this committee and suggested by the contractors, is being considered. The providers will be suggesting that the rate used in the calculation, clinical vs natural rate, should also be a consideration.

D. Feeding Services - ArSHA (Arizona Speech-Language Hearing Association)

- Amber hasn't had any luck with contacting someone at Feeding Matters. NAU has created a new feeding clinic program that is an option for families. Gini would like a little more information so that she can do more targeted research. Amber will continue to reach out to Feed Matters.

E. APEP (AHCCCS Provider Enrollment Portal) Process

- Leo reached out to The Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD) for support. It is on the AAPPD list of things to do, but not necessarily as a high priority. Overall, the new process has been very challenging, and getting support from AHCCCS is difficult. We can wait and see what AAPPD will be able to accomplish.

F. ICC Administrative Support and Family Participation Reimbursement Options

- Peggy shared that their family support person just started this week. Peggy will invite her to our next meeting because there are a couple of ways that they may be able to support AzEIP with this.
- Procurement shared that family will need to be set up in the system. A one pager can be created for families to support ease of use and understanding of the process.
- AzEIP leadership is asking that the Fiscal Committee and the Family Engagement Committee work together on a proposal for what kind of financial support is needed for family engagement, conference participation and any other priorities that ICC has for their budget funds.
- Link to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations on Use of Funds

- by the council. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/c/g/303.603>
 - Amber will reach out to the chair of the Family Engagement Committee to begin the collaboration..
 - Leo will continue to reach out to former committee member and family advocate, Michelle Thorne, for feedback on engaging families. Hopefully she will be able to help, as well.
- G. 2023 Plans & Goals - AzEIP Support Needs
- a. Fiscal Committee Membership
 - No discussion - removing from agenda
 - b. New Funding Sources
 - No discussion - will continue with this in 2024
 - c. Professional Development Opportunities
 - No discussion
- H. 2024 Plans & Goals - AzEIP Support Needs
- Plans and Goals for 2024 will focus on the ICC Budget, including costs to support family engagement in the ICC as discussed early.
 - Legislative education and advocacy work will resume in 2025.
- I. Parking Lot Items
- a. Eligibility Changes Subcommittee
 - No discussion - remaining in parking lot
6. Action/follow up
- Add Budget Transparency to future agenda
 - Remove Fiscal Committee Membership Item from the agenda
 - Gini will do some research into the challenges around Feeding Services.
 - Christina will look into authorization and billing issues with AHCCCS Health Plans.
 - Amber will reach out to the Family Engagement Committee.
 - Leo will continue to work with AAPPD regarding the APEP issue.
 - Leo will follow up with Michelle Thorne regarding family engagement suggestions.
7. Public Comment
- None
8. Confirm next meeting date/time: April 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
9. Adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

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