



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

ICC Fiscal Committee Minutes

Thursday February 23, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Attendance

Members

Amber Neubauer, Chair (Present)
Dana Hutchings, ICC Member (Present)
Kelly Lalan, ICC Member (Present)
Leo Huppert (Present)
Kristin Mancuso
Senator Rosanna Galbaldon (Absent)
Jennifer Ibanez (Absent)
Sylvia Acosta
Vance Phillips (Absent)
Cristina Renteria (Present)
Kate Dobler (Present)
Lauren Encinas (Present)
Peggy Peixoto (Present)
Jenee Sisnroy (Present)

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 10:04 am
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Read Public Member Notice
4. Minute Approval from November 10, 2022, meeting
 - A. Jenee Sisnroy made a motion that the minutes be approved as written. Leo Huppert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
5. Discussion Items/topics
 - A. AHCCCS issues
 - a. Deputy Director Rountree has been very supportive. One provider agency has seen some

improvement. It was mentioned that the spreadsheets for sharing information have been helpful. Health Choice now has an online option for claims correction.

B. ICC Fiscal Committee Activities to Support Quality Services

- a. The Fiscal Committee can research other income sources or what other states are utilizing. A proactive approach to make improvement would be an excellent step. The ICC Fiscal Committee will be working to educate themselves and find ways to support the AzEIP fiscal team. Jenee will share the ITCA annual report prior to the next meeting and an agenda topic will be added for discussion.

C. AzEIP Fiscal Responsibility and Timely Reimbursement

- a. The committee will consider ways to support the process and prevent delays in payment for ALTCS eligible children. Using Part C funds as glue money to support the process would be one option to consider. When dealing with DDD, AzEIP is the lead agency and must act as a go between. Because of the strict AHCCCS billing rules, there are roadblocks with ITEAMS billing for ALTCS services and receiving reimbursement if Part C funds were to be used as glue money. It was also mentioned that families need a better understanding of how clinic services may affect insurance payment for their EI services.
- b. The committee needs to determine how to help put a structure in place to allow AzEIP to take the lead and ensure timely payment. AzEIP no longer being under DDD should provide more ability to hold them accountable for timely payments. Ginny Rountree will be consulted to support this idea. Jeremiah will be focused on further engaging with DDD and DES leadership on a solution to issues around timely payment. Because Medicaid is the payor source, the problem is bigger than just within DES. Support from the full ICC as a broader group with wider membership would be helpful. A subcommittee will be formed to draft a letter to be approved and sent by the full ICC. Dana, Leo and Amber volunteered.

D. AzEIP Conferences 2023 - IDIO etc.

- a. IDIO and OSEP conferences alternate years. Amber will bring this up in the Executive Committee which meets tomorrow, February 24, 2023, but the fiscal committee could look at other opportunities. Several committee members suggested local conference opportunities that might be of interest. These will be shared in Gerry's Gazette and via email.

E. 2023 Plans & Goals - AzEIP Support Needs

- a. Jeremiah asked that the committee consider what opportunities the ICC would like to engage in and determine a budget. Jenee shared the below list of potential costs per the Part C application which is currently out for Public Comment.
 - Payment for travel and stipends for allowed individuals, in accordance with IDEA Part C and AzEIP/ICC Bylaws
 - Meeting facilities
 - Facilitation services for periodic retreats, meetings, strategic planning, or orientation
 - Interpretation services, including but not limited to Sign-Language Interpreters and cart services
 - Other implementation and development activities by the ICC
 - Costs associated with ICC Subcommittee development and sustainability
- b. Jenee inquired about what costs have been expended from these budget items the last couple of years and if there might be some carryover available.
- c. Looking for insight into how the budgeted funds can be utilized to increase diversity of individuals participating on the ICC and its committees. Peggy will look into how this is being done at the Department of Health Services Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs parent committee and help this committee make that connection.
- d. New agenda item for the future could be Electronic Visit Verification and its associated cost

to the AzEIP system. An explanation of this new requirement for respite services was provided. This will likely be rolled out to therapies in the coming year which could impact AzEIP providers. ICC might be able to support this process.

F. Parking Lot Items

- a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - i. This item can be removed from the agenda
- b. Budget Information Request
 - i. This item can be removed from the agenda
- c. Legislative/Funding Issue
 - i. This work has been quite successful. There is a budget line item that is currently passing through the legislative process now that would fund AzEIP at 100% of benchmarks from the 2019 rebase study.
- d. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. The DDD team has worked on this, but it is still an issue. It is part of the timely payment issue previously discussed.
- e. AzEIP Eligibility Changes Subcommittee
 - i. There have been talks that OSEP may eventually put requirements in place for state EI systems to serve a minimum percentage of all children in the state. AzEIP would have serious challenges due to our current eligibility criteria. This will be addressed more fully in the near future.
- f. Other Funding Sources
 - i. A subcommittee will be formed, especially asking for volunteers outside of the providers. Kelly & Leo volunteered.

6. Action/follow up

- A. A subcommittee on funding sources will be formed.
- B. Peggy will provide information about the Department of Health Services Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs parent committee's process for supporting families to participate.
- C. Local conference opportunities will be shared.
- D. Subcommittee will meet to draft a letter regarding timely reimbursement.
- E. The committee members will look at ITCA reports to come up with ideas for other funding sources to prepare for further discussion. <https://www.ideainfanttoddler.org/board-approved-surveys.php>

7. Public Comment - none

8. Confirm next meeting date/time: March 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn at 11:34 a.m.