



INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

April 22, 2021 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Members

Dana Hutchings, Chair
Christopher Keck, DCS

Public Members

Amber Neubauer
Leo Huppert
Kristin Mancuso
Michele Knowlton-Thorne

Staff

Alicia Amundson
Jeremiah Hale
Lisa Casteel

1. Call to Order – 1:08 p.m.
2. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - i. The task force has not met. Lisa will provide the additional information requested.
 - b. Membership for Fiscal Committee
 - i. No update is available on this topic.
 - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. This is still a significant problem. Sunrise Therapy is still at a 25% pay rate. Rejection rate is 75%. According to Beth Farber, they are correctly working on December 2019 manual corrections. Is there something that the SC could do proactively to support this? Rise's oldest claims that are being worked manually is August 2020. Guidance to the SC's to use IFSP date as planned start date in ITEAMS is only for LTC children. DTS/DDD is working on the push / pull fixes. The recommended long-term solution is to be able to get all billings into ITEAMS since the provider's contracts are with AzEIP. Providers shouldn't be waiting over one year to get paid. According to recent research, this is out of compliance with DDD's AHCCCS contract. Additionally, new requirements are being added to FOCUS billing that are not required under the AzEIP Contract.
 - d. Rate Rebase needs
 - i. Committee thanked Jeremiah for the numbers that were provided. The numbers provided were more accurate than those being used previously. Brandy Petrone and AAPPD's legislative aides are working to be sure that a percent of the \$30M

funds in SB 1355 will be allocated to AzEIP. Jeremiah asked if any additional clarification is needed to the responses to the questions that were submitted by Leo. Leo felt that the response on other funding sources was not fully answered and was somewhat vague. Funds provided by SB-1355 will not be sufficient to fully fund the rates to an appropriate level. There is no budget currently available to cover that. DES leadership is saying that if legislation requires the rate to be increased the funding is not provided for in the legislation. Leo has heard that AzEIP isn't likely to receive more than \$2M from the SB1355 funding amount. The rate rebase was not completed as it should have been and now we are at a point that therapists will likely be leaving 0-3 if rates are not increased in July of this year. The provider agency leaders have done significant work with the legislature and the rates are public, so the information is available to the individual providers, so they know. A meeting with DES leadership, including Deputy Director Rountree, should take place. This is currently in the process of being scheduled. During the May meeting the ICC Fiscal Committee can focus on trying to come up with a plan through ICC, if appropriate. If this is not possible, it will have to be handled on their own as a provider group.

- e. AHCCCS issues including new contract with Mercy Care
 - i. No issues at this point with the CMDP Mercy Care transition. This is part of the overall issue. We need to try again to reach Judy Walker about attending a meeting of this committee. Dana will reach out to her again. Rise has been receiving the correct rate with Mercy Care since a complaint was filed. Banner is also following the same process. The letter from AAPPD seems to have been a great support in resolving the issue.
- f. Family Guide to Funding
 - i. Still on hold
- g. Fiscal Monitoring
 - i. Fiscal Monitoring is the AzEIP Fiscal team's main focus at this time. The timeline is to have the initial request for information out tomorrow. There will be 4 weeks to provide the requested information. Meetings will be set up for support and response to questions. There is no specific request of the Fiscal Committee to support the process. The committee asked if it would be possible for the monitored agencies to upload the documentation into ITEAMS when the information is entered. If the monitoring period was known in advance, documentation could be uploaded when entered. The problem with uploading EOB's is that, for some health plans, information regarding multiple patients could be on any given document and a significant amount of information would need to be redacted prior to submission. DDD requires much of this information to be provided up front.
- h. Parking Lot Items
 - i. Budget Information Request
 - 1. This is currently on hold. Follow-up meeting with Ms. Rountree.
 - ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds.

1. The committee is concerned that not all funds are spent and would have to be returned. Lisa will research this question, but this is not believed to have ever occurred in the past. Training and other costs have been on hold. The committee wishes to ensure that all available funding is utilized.
 - iii. Technical Assistance
 - iv. Additional Funding Sources
 - v. COVID-19 Funding
3. Action/follow-up
 - a. Dana will reach out to Judy Walker about attending a meeting of this committee.
 - b. Lisa will forward additional information regarding the SC unit averages for calendar years 2019 and 2020.
4. Public Comment
5. Schedule Next Meeting - Next meeting is scheduled 4th Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm. One meeting in July or August will be skipped.
6. Adjourn at 1:55 p.m.