

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

ICC Fiscal Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Attendees

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

Peggy Peixoto (Present)
Cristina Renteria (Present)
Jenee Sisroy (Present)
Gini Britton (Present)
Christina Quast (Absent)
Lisa Casteel, AzEIP Staff (Present)
Jeremiah Hale, AzEIP Staff (Present)
Amanda Honeywood, AzEIP Staff (Present)

Minutes

1. Call to Order - 10:07 am
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Read Public Member Notice
4. Minute Approval for the July 18, 2024, meeting-
 - A. Dana Hutchings made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Jenee Sisroy seconded the motion. Committee members, Dana, Leo, Peggy, Christina, Jenee. Lauren and Gini vote aye to approve the minutes.
5. Discussion Items/topics
 - A. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) issues
 - a. Gini and Cristina continue to be a great resource for those that need assistance. Right now, there are no specific issues to discuss. Gini has no updates or anything pending on this topic. Dana mentioned the excellent billing support she has received from her contact at Blue Cross / Blue Shield.
 - b. Cristina R. wanted to clarify if the AHCCCS issues being discussed are just with AzEIP

or everything in general. Some people are having issues with services outside of AzEIP. Parents who are providing services to their children, through the Parents as Caregivers Program, are losing AHCCCS coverage for their families. Gini said that she can assist with individual cases and can pass the message along to make sure the matter stays on the front burner with AHCCCS.

- B. Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Fiscal Responsibility and Timely Reimbursement
 - a. The fiscal committee has had ongoing discussions but there was nothing to discuss at the last meeting. Cristina Q. was going to investigate the OT billing questions, but right now Jeremiah doesn't have any action items that he is aware of or if anything is needed from the ICC.
- C. 2023 AzEIP Rate Rebase Study
 - a. The AHCCCS rate for speech therapy will be adjusted to match AzEIP rates as of October 1, 2024. Some rates through AHCCCS are blended rates so it may not match exactly, but it will all add up. Also, this is the first time that a separate telehealth rate has been included.
- D. Goals and Strategic Planning
 - a. The committee is beginning a strategic planning process for formulating some goals and today began looking over the document as an outline of the Fiscal Committee. The Mission Statement for the ICC Fiscal Committee was discussed and feedback gathered on potential edits. A subcommittee will be formed to work on updates.
 - b. The current Vision Statement was also addressed. What is the why? Leo is taking comments for the subcommittee.
 - c. A list of stakeholders and interest parties for the Strategic Plan was discussed
 - d. Discussion around the Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities of the committee was begun.
- E. Budget Request - ICC Administrative and Family Participant Support Costs
 - a. AzEIP needs the official request, but there is no specific deadline. Lauren will assist with getting the budget request proposal done. Leo will set up a meeting with Amber and anyone on the committee who wishes to join to get this request completed.
- F. Budget Transparency
 - a. DES/AzEIP Update and Possible Impacts
 - i. Jeremiah stated that the structure change is not expected to have any impact on this. If anything, it may be helpful with the new division.
- G. Parking Lot Items
 - a. AzEIP Eligibility Changes Subcommittee
 - i. Completed the work and submitted. This will be part of the future contract look. Lisa C stated just change eligibility criteria for AzEIP, but this will move into the future.
 - b. AHCCCS Provider Enrollment Portal (APEP) Process
 - i. Committee agreed to discontinue this parking lot item.
 - c. Professional Development Opportunities
 - i. Dana shared about the Improving Data Improving Outcomes (IDIO) Conference. Dana stated that she learned a lot and it was a lot of sessions in regard to Child Find. Jeremiah shared about the session he attended on the Differential Monitoring System (DMS) and one on fiscal fitness, looking at how to handle different fiscal situations. Family advocates should be encouraged to attend one of these conferences because it could be a great benefit. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and IDEA Part D are potential funding sources

that might be available. Preventing Child Abuse Arizona program has grants that could be potentially use as a funding source.

- ii. There was also a discussion around families better understanding the AzEIP system and particularly their role in strengthening the system. Cancellations and No Shows in particular can cause challenges for providers and impacts retention. The AzEIP team is working on a mechanism for collecting data on this topic.

d. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Billing - Speech units

- i. Amber is taking the lead on this. She can update us on this topic at the next meeting.

6. Action/follow up

- o Lisa Casteel will Reach out to Lisa Vallee to ask about removing Kelly Lelan from the committee roster to help with meeting quorum.
- o Add agenda item - Helping Families Understand the Impact No Shows and Cancellations have on the AzEIP System
- o Remove Agenda Item - AHCCCS Provider Enrollment Portal (APEP) Process
- o Leo will set up a meeting to finalize a budget request proposal.
- o A subcommittee will be formed to update the Mission Statement of the ICC Fiscal Committee. Christina R and Jenee volunteered.

7. Public Comment - None

8. Confirm next meeting date/time: November 7, 2024, 10:00 am -11:30 am

9. Adjourn - 11:39am

- Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons that require a reasonable modification based on language or disability should submit a request as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the modification.
- Persons with a disability or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) may request reasonable accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Amanda Honeywood at (602) 532- 9960 or email at ahoneywood@azdes.gov. Requests should be made 48 hours prior to the meeting
- The Interagency Coordinating Council may hear items on the agenda out of order. The Council may discuss, consider, act, or solicit public comment regarding a matter any time on the agenda.