



# INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

## FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

### Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

February 25, 2020

1:00 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

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1. Call to Order 1:06 pm
  2. Discussion Items/topics
    - a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
      - i. Lisa shared some preliminary data for this request. The committee had a discussion around the data. Lisa will look into the data more to try to eliminate or identify the lower tier data that could be bringing the average down lower than expected particularly in IPP. Lisa will look at options to break up the data into children who exited through the process at various points.
    - b. Membership for fiscal committee
      - i. Dana was planning to reach out to Katie. No additional information was available.
    - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
      - i. Denial processing was still a challenge when Leo spoke to Dana last. Some January services have been submitted successfully while there are still issues. Beth is working diligently to correct authorization and process the denials. It is still time consuming and payment delays are still a concern. Pending status would be helpful instead of having to manually submit to Beth. Meeting schedule next week between AZEIP and DTS teams. "End date outside of authorization" is the denial reason that needs to be changed to pending, if possible. Lisa will follow-up with Beth regarding changing the status of this denial reason. Non-direct services denials seem to be decreasing; that change has likely been implemented in the system.

d. Rate Rebase needs

- i. Jeremiah shared that we are still working on a response to the feedback from the provider group. We are aligning our plan with leadership and OSPB and looking at what numbers can be provided to assist with legislative work. Leo shared that they have been meeting with legislators both in tandem with AAPPD and individually.
- ii. SB 1355 - Senator Bartow is asking for additional funding to fully fund the rate rebase surveys for multiple underfunded programs within 3 years. 150M would be needed to fully fund services. Representative Udall has had a child in AzEIP which increased her understanding. They are asking for dollars needed to fund and various percentages of benchmark. SB1633 was not going to move forward this session but Senator Bowie is supportive to look at other options next session. House Representative Longdon might be another good resource.
- iii. Michele was asking about publicity or social media campaign to bring about more public awareness and support. Leo will provide Michelle with data that she can share with Senator Bowie to support a short-term solution while a larger package is worked out. Providers have put together an email that can be sent as a post-meeting follow-up or to provide information to those representatives that are not available to meet.
- iv. If some increase is not received, sustainability of the program is in jeopardy. An additional increase to the over 3 population which is causing more providers to consider moving to that age group to be able to receive that higher reimbursement. \$30 difference now. AzEIP scheduling also so much for challenging and time consuming which increases the challenges to the individual therapists who are being asked to do more for less.
- v. The committee asked what AzEIP can share regarding the DES leadership's plans moving forward. The frustration is that the providers do not have specifics for the ask which is exactly what the legislators need. Leo shared that any more specific information that can be shared with the legislature is needed within the next few days because the legislature is already in cross-over. Jeremiah has shared that this additional information with leadership and will continue to work to keep this moving forward.

e. COVID-19 Funding

- i. Jeremiah shared that there has been movement on the topic of covid-19 funding. He hopes to have good news to share very soon. Multiple conversations have gone back and forth with the governor's office. This does not need to go through the legislature. This will hopefully be of some support and relief to the providers.

f. AHCCCS issues including new contract with Mercy Care

- i. We will table this topic until Judith Walker is able to join our meeting. New issues continue to come up. One of the health plans is now questioning authorizations and services provided. United Health Care is questioning the current approach to obtaining consent for insurance. We will follow-up with Dana about inviting Judy to next month's meeting.

g. Family Guide to Funding

- i. Tabled for now. When does this document need to be updated and available based on the other internal goals of the fiscal team including monitoring?

h. Fiscal Monitoring

- i. Jeremiah asked that if the committee hasn't had the opportunity to look at the document sent out yesterday please do so and send any feedback to us outside

of the meeting. We can take that feedback into how these monitoring protocols can be implemented. ITEAMS is a great tool for accessing the data needed but the committee understands that the accuracy of that data needs to be verified. Amber stated that the committee can provide feedback on how this data be added to ITEAMS. Manual work will be likely be intensive this first time to determine what process can be used moving forward. A pilot approach will be used for this first round of monitoring. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the current OSEP deadline for completing this first round of monitoring although an extension has been requested. Feedback regarding the overall process as well as these specific Monitoring Indicators would be appreciated.

i. Parking Lot Items

- i. Budget Information Request – Fiscal team is looking at this as part of the Rate rebase work.
- ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds – The Fiscal Committee wants to ensure that all dollars spent appropriately and completely so that nothing must be returned.
- iii. Technical Assistance – What sources of technical assistance is available both within AzEIP and through national technical assistance organizations? Leo will include the previously shared information on this topic with the items he is providing to the committee.
- iv. Additional Funding Sources – Michelle and Alicia met with UA / Arizona Lend regarding a funding option for providers.

3. Action/follow-up

- a. Lisa and Leo will follow-up with Dana to bring her up to speed.
- b. Lisa will follow-up with Beth regarding changing the status of the denial reason “End date outside of authorization” to pending instead of denied.
- c. Leo will provide Michelle with data that she can share with her legislative contacts including the email the providers have put together that can be sent as a post-meeting follow-up or to provide information to those representatives that are not available to meet at this time.
- d. Jeremiah will provide the committee with additional information to support their conversation with the legislature.
- e. The committee will review the Fiscal Monitoring Indicators and provide feedback regarding both the indicators and the monitoring process overall.
- f. Leo will forward the previously shared information regarding technical assistance available from the national TA centers.
- g. Lisa and Leo will follow up with Dana regarding inviting Judy Walker to an upcoming committee meeting.

4. Public Comment - none

5. Schedule Next Meeting – is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at the same time.

6. Adjourn – at 2:30 pm