



INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

March 25, 2021

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 - 1:05 pm
 2. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - i. Lisa will finalize the data to split the SC in IPP numbers into additional categories:
 1. Eligible
 2. Not Eligible
 3. Not determined
 - ii. Lisa is will send numbers to committee and then they will schedule a subcommittee meeting to discuss.
 - b. Membership for Fiscal Committee
 - i. Nothing new to share on this topic. Diversification would be the priority. Only a couple additional individuals are needed.
 - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. This is still a very significant and challenging issue. Kristin has reached out to Beth Farber and is working with her. The temporary TL ND increase is still not reflected in the system. Beth said that it was going to be handled internally instead. 23% of file denied because of authorizations not moving over to focus. Fixes are still being done manually. Providers are having to do a lot of time-consuming work prior to reaching out to Beth and team. Cash flow issues are a significant concern. There is still approximately \$200,000 outstanding for two agencies to summarize this issue. This has been elevated to Alicia and beyond to support the priority of the system enhancement project. The committee will continue to work to get updates on the matter.

d. Rate Rebase needs

- i. The legislature's House Appropriations Committee did approve SB -1355. However, the website now shows WD by the Health and Human Services Committee for this bill. This could possibly mean that it has been withdrawn. The legislature has stopped hearing new bills so additional bills are not an option this year. AAPPD is involved and has been attempting to have the billed updated to provide a certain percentage for AzEIP. Brandi characterized it as a positive direction. AzEIP has put together a number for the additional cost of moving to 100% of benchmark. This and a response to the questions submitted by Leo is in the final approval process with leadership. Brandi has been speaking to Ginny as well.
- ii. The provider group has done a lot of work to raise awareness although they didn't have a specific ask. Hopefully, this will be helpful in the long run.
 1. A meeting was held with Representative Friese. It was a very good meeting. He seemed to understand the provider's struggle and was hoping to be able to support their efforts moving forward.
 2. Work will continue through the summer to keep awareness up. AzEIP cannot advocate with legislature, but the ICC still might be able to support. Although AzEIP cannot advocate direct, would Edd, AzEIP's Community Partnership Liaison, be able to support in some way, possibly by providing materials or other information to the ICC to further efforts. Jeremiah and Lisa can see if that is an option by speaking to both and Edd and Alicia.
- iii. More family involvement would support the need and provide a powerful voice with a collection of family stories.
- iv. An AOTA provider member and attorney had gotten involved to support 1355 and AzEIP specifically and to describe what data can be used to clarify the story with the legislature.
- v. Michelle mentioned the possibility of building a coalition with other agencies and groups that could get involved and support these activities. We could possibly work with other committees of the ICC, as well.
- vi. Leo mentioned that DCS was not as aware of AzEIP and their activities and we would expect. DCS is one of the highest referral sources. It is possible that the whole agency needs to be more broadly informed.

e. COVID-19 Funding

- i. The committee is thankful for the work done to make this Covid-19 funding a reality. This was brought forward in July or August and the progress is very exciting. The providers will be compiling clarification questions and suggestions regarding the survey. AzEIP will be happy to receive that feedback and make edits. Those can be sent to Alicia and / or Jeremiah. For clarification, AzEIP has been able to create a plan for the providers to submit survey information and expenditure plans to receive payments covering the next 5 months. This will be moved to the parking lot.

f. AHCCCS issues including new contract with Mercy Care

- i. The providers are trying to get a meeting with AHCCCS and the various health plans. This has not yet been scheduled.
 1. Any hot points? CMDP moving to Mercy Care. The Child ID numbers will have the A in front under the new plan. State Fair hearing has occurred

over the phone for a 2019 claim. AzEIP staff cannot be directly involved in those.

2. Mercy Care has stated that the authorization will be carried forward from CMDP and will not need to be requested a second time. AzEIP has heard this well. Discussions can take place with the different health plans with the support of Judith Walker.

Side Note:

APPDD support was invaluable with this challenge as well.

3. When Jenee was Part C coordinator and we were under DDD, AzEIP was included in AAPDD meetings. Can we look at this moving forward to see if AzEIP can be represented? Another meeting with DD Rountree is also a topic of question.

g. Family Guide to Funding

- i. This is still tabled. We can move that forward hopefully this month.

h. Fiscal Monitoring

- i. Fiscal monitoring meeting is being held tomorrow to continue to work out the steps in the process. One item of feedback was to allow for submitting the EOB proactively in ITEAMS and is being worked on and available very soon. The Monitoring Rally is coming up and Fiscal Monitoring is included. As far as we know, the deadline of August to complete the first round of monitoring has not been changed. The committee mentioned that a manual process for the monitoring could be problematic. This first year will be helpful to streamline the process and reduce manual work whenever possible. Whether or not the uploading of EOBs will be mandatory at some point has not been decided.

i. Parking Lot Items

- i. Budget Information Request
- ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds.
- iii. Technical Assistance
 1. The committee inquired as to the results of the ECTA system framework self – assessment. Can this be shared with the committee? A summary was created and a chart put together of the scoring. This might be helpful to the committee to set priorities for the coming year.
- iv. Additional Funding Sources
 1. Arizona Lend will not be able to support with funding but perhaps they can provide some training or continuing education around screening tools or other provider support activities.

3. Action/follow-up

- a. Lisa and Leo will follow-up with Dana to bring her up to speed.
- b. Lisa will finalize the data to break out the IPP SC unit averages and email results to committee members.
- c. Judith Walker needs to be contacted and / or invited to this meeting.
- d. Jeremiah and Lisa can speak to both Edd and Alicia regarding Edd's ability to work through the ICC to continue to raise awareness of AzEIP throughout the community.

Edd can reach out to the community, but perhaps the overall ICC would provide support to the legislature. Where is the line / restrictions?

- e. Lisa and Jeremiah will follow-up with Alicia to see what elevation has occurred regarding the Focus authorization issue and how this can support the challenges moving forward.
- f. Jeremiah will continue to follow-up with leadership regarding the release of the dollar amount of the cost of increasing rates to benchmark numbers and the response to the questions posed by the provider organization through Leo.
- g. Jeremiah will share the summary of the results of the ECTA System Framework Self – Assessment.
- h. Michelle and her group will continue to create a family group to support the work and raise awareness around AzEIP. Civic Engagement Beyond Voting is a great resource to get the public involved in the legislative process. Their framework and that of AAPPD could be used as a guideline moving forward.

4. Public Comment

5. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for April 22 at 1:00 pm.

6. Adjourn at 2:23pm