



INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

May 27, 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

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1. Call to Order 1:03 p.m.
 2. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - i. Dana and Amber are meeting on Thursday; Kristin is unable to attend.
 - b. Membership for Fiscal Committee
 - i. No work has been done on this due to competing priorities. The committee asked Michele if she has any suggestions for family members to join the committee. She will keep that in mind and report back if anyone comes to mind.
 - c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. The main question at this point is if they are able to go back beyond one year? March 2020 are the oldest outstanding claims that the committee is immediately aware of. This will need to be addressed well before June 30 cut-off for FY20. FY20- close-out in ITEAMS is working smoothly. That shouldn't be an issue. The TLND increase was not implemented in FOCUS until Feb 2021. There are still many denials related to that issue. The committee will be looking for additional methods to support in resolving the issue including a possible meeting with someone from DDD.
 - d. Rate Rebase needs
 - i. AAPPD and DAMES continue to work on this issue and held an event earlier this week to raise awareness and were able to testify to the AZ State Senate Appropriations Committee. The \$30M earmarked in SB 1355 would likely be

\$90M with the federal match and is still in discussions within the legislature. AAPPD has shared that the bill says DDD but AzEIP needs these dollars as well. They have advocated regarding the importance of including AzEIP. The concern is that the legislature does not understand that while AzEIP funding is closely tied to DDD, history has shown that this does not guarantee how funding will be appropriated.

- e. AHCCCS issues including new contract with Mercy Care
 - i. Dana emailed Judy about attending this meeting. She has not responded. Issues continue with SLP payment rate though some improvement has been made. Lisa mentioned that they have noticed an increase in waivers for public insurance. Waiver increase could be related to DDD Support Coordinators process of requesting the authorization by submitting AzEIP Member Service Request Forms. Rise hadn't been requesting waivers in the past but billing and receiving the denials while awaiting notification from DDD. They have started submitting waiver requests instead.
 - ii. Dana stated that she has noticed some instances of ITEAMS TPL invoices paying the difference for public insurance. Lisa will investigate the cause. Dana has started sending reversal requests related to this issue which will aid Lisa in this research. AzEIP will be working on a formal process for ITEAMS reversals even if it has to be manual, at this time. Data accuracy is important to both sides.
- f. Family Guide to Funding
 - i. This is still on hold.
- g. Fiscal Monitoring
 - i. Lisa noted that she was thankful to the providers for the prompt response to the documentation requests. Lisa will be reaching out regarding the same number of missing documents.
- h. Parking Lot Items
 - i. Budget Information Request
 - ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds.
 - a. AzEIP will be soliciting stakeholder feedback for the spending plan for the ARP funds. Jeremiah asked the fiscal committee to start thinking about that. AzEIP is currently waiting for additional guidance from OSEP regarding this additional one-time funding. The committee's questions were: When will AzEIP be required to share the spending plan and what will be the timeframe for expending the funds? Jeremiah shared that those are precisely the questions that are expected to be answered by OSEP in the coming week. One suggestion for use of the funds would be a resource site for information to be shared with families, specifically tools for providers to share with families that they can use to implement their own progress tracking. Standardizing those resources and processes across the state would be quite beneficial to families.

- iii. Technical Assistance from national TA centers.
- iv. Additional Funding Sources
- v. COVID-19 Funding

3. Action/follow-up

- a. Family Guide to Funding updates will continue to be worked on by AzEIP and shared with the committee for further review.
- b. SC billing work group will continue to consider this matter and make recommendations.
- c. AzEIP Fiscal team will continue to support with the DDD Focus authorization issue and will reach out to determine if the older items will be paid, particularly before the upcoming fiscal year close-out.
- d. Dana will follow-up with Judy Walker about a convenient time to join a Fiscal Committee meeting.

4. Public Comment

5. Schedule Next Meeting

- a. Committee is considering skipping one meeting during the summer. One suggestion would be July. The ARP funding may have an impact on when this happens. Meetings will remain as scheduled at this time.

6. Adjourn at 1:41 p.m.