



INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Fiscal Committee Agenda & Minutes

June 24, 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

1. Call to Order 1:01 p.m.
2. Discussion Items/topics
 - a. Service Coordination Billing Approach
 - i. The Service Coordinator (SC) unit averages data has been updated and will be sent to the committee.
 - ii. The subcommittee shared the Preliminary Proposal they created and possible advantages
 1. Potentially reduce auditing
 2. Daily logs are time consuming for SC
 3. Potentially reduce overhead and improve job satisfaction
 4. SC's sometimes don't record everything because tracking is time intensive
 5. Would give SC's more time to provide quality service
 6. Taking notes and tracking such small increments is not efficient or time effective
 7. Compare to DDD system - monthly note
 8. Possible options for flat rate payments
 - a. IPP up to eligibility
 - b. IPP for eligible children
 - c. Monthly group rate
 - iii. Next steps
 1. The final proposal will be submitted to the ICC for official submission to AzEIP. It will be submitted to Annie and Alicia for preliminary input.
 - b. Membership for Fiscal Committee

- i. No new information
- c. FOCUS Authorization Issues
 - i. There are still significant issues with service authorization because the root issue has not been corrected. Providers remain concerned that DDD Finance reports everything is corrected, but denials are still occurring. Team Lead Non-Direct service is working better, but service authorization is still an issue. Preparing the data to submit is very time consuming for the organizations. Sunrise Therapy reported their denial rates. The committee will ask for additional numbers from other providers. Authorization denials are for the same children month after month.
 - ii. AzEIP Fiscal team requested additional support from AzEIP and DDD leadership. This is not moving as quickly as AzEIP would like both for the manual fixes and the system enhancements needs.
 - iii. Area program managers were getting reports at one time. This might be helpful as they can investigate what is occurring. A re-instatement of this practice may be explored so program managers can be of assistance.
- d. Rate Rebase needs
 - i. The Senate passed the budget bill June 23; the house is expected to pass it June 24. The Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities spoke to the governor's office about carving out dollars for AzEIP. Others are also concerned about monies being allocated for AzEIP.
 - ii. AzEIP Fiscal team is continually working with Financial Services (FSA). As soon as the budget is passed, we can begin working on proposals and get details for allocation of funds identified in SB-1355.
 - iii. AzEIP continues to be budgeted under DDD which provides some flexibility. The possibility of developing a specific AzEIP line item in the FY23 budget is being explored. However, it is unlikely to be changed.
 - iv. New DDD ISA agreement includes an annual budget review.
 - v. State funding cannot be reduced below the prior year's expenditures due to IDEA Part C non-supplanting or Maintenance of Effort requirements.
- e. AHCCCS issues including new contract with Mercy Care
 - i. The committee's concerns regarding Mercy Care were shared with Judy Walker from AHCCCS. The Fiscal Committee's upcoming meetings were forwarded to her. She and Dr. Eric Tack will make an effort to attend.
- f. Family Guide to Funding
 - i. Nothing further to report. Tabled until after fiscal monitoring concludes.
- g. Fiscal Monitoring
 - i. Ongoing.
- h. Parking Lot Items
 - i. Budget Information Request
 - ii. Fiscal Spending for Part C Funds.
 - 1. ARP funding – A stakeholder feedback survey for possible uses for this funding is being created. It must be used in the same way and time frame as our regular Part C funding. This is one-time funding.

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

3. Action/follow-up

- a. Dana will continue to encourage Judy Walker to attend this meeting.
- b. Lisa will re-send link to Family Guide to Funding document.
- c. Dana will send the SC Services Billing proposal to Annie and Alicia for input.

4. Public Comment

5. Schedule Next Meeting

- a. July meeting conflicts with OSEP Conference; therefore, no meeting will be held in July.
Next meeting is August 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

6. Adjourn 1:58 pm