

**Legislative Advisory Committee for Reimbursements for Services Under Programs
Administered by the Department of Developmental Services**

February 1, 2010
Legislative Office Building - Room 1E
11:00 A.M.

Attendees: Sen. Jonathan Harris, Co-Chair; Pat Bourne, Co-Chair; Jerry Brennan, Kuhn Employment Opportunities; Janice Chamberlain, Camp Horizons Program, Inc.; Joseph Drexler, DDS; Anne Foley; OPM; Mickey Herbst, Arc of Connecticut; Mary McKay, DDS; Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of DDS; Krista Pender, DDS; Rep. Betsy Ritter; Mark Schaefer, DSS; Gary Richter, DSS

Summary of Meeting

Handouts: Agenda, Contact List, Legislation

1. Welcome and Discussion of the Purpose of the Committee

Pat Bourne welcomed Committee members and thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to research and analyze the implications of the current reimbursement systems for programs administered by DDS and to report on recommendations to the joint committee by January 1, 2011.

2. Committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief narrative of their background and interest in serving on the committee.

3. Issues/concerns and Responses:

Why has rate system been implemented without waiting for Committee's input?

DDS experienced an immediate rescission of \$3.7 million to its day services account and has the fiscal responsibility to manage its budget. DDS already reduced Public services by 11%, further reductions could jeopardize \$500 million in state revenue. Technical assistance is being provided to any provider agency requiring it. Department is open to suggestions or ideas on how to handle future rescissions.

Are their additional costs associated with this change to DSS?

All changes have been made in the infrastructure of the Department.

Is it fiscally responsible to move forward before determining the effects to some providers, which could be detrimental to their programs and services to individuals?

DDS has indicators that the quality of services would not be affected or that any provider would be in jeopardy of going out of business.

If it's determined that this system won't be best in the long term, could the movement be stopped?

The Department is open to suggestions on other ways to handle the budget deficit. Rates can be recomputed and modifications can be made if necessary.

Are we consistent with what other states are doing?

Most states have moved away from per-diem payments and are paying in 15 minute increments. Examples of attendance rates: California is 100%, Maryland is 95%, Delaware 92%, Oregon 90%, and Massachusetts 85%, however, they won't pay for services over that.

Families will be restricted in choices if they have to be concerned with financially hurting the programs their family member attends.

Individuals who have an individual budget are already participating in a utilization based system, so if they don't attend their program, the money can be used for other services. For those on a master contract, the agency has been getting paid whether or not a person goes to their program. For the 90% attendance, there is a built in 35 days where an individual can be absent before a provider loses any money.

4. Outline of Tasks and Sub-Committee Assignments

A Co-Chair has been assigned to each of the four sub-committees listed below. Committee members interested serving as Co-Chair or as a sub-committee member should contact Co-Chair Bourne.

- a. Medicaid Waiver Requirements and analysis of waiver regulations. Co-Chair Bourne suggested that a representative from both OPM and DSS consider serving on this sub-committee.
Co-Chair: Mickey Herbst; Co-Chair: TBD
- b. Level of Need (LON): how are methodologies linked to funding
Co-Chair: Terry Macy; Co-Chair: TBD
- c. Attendance-based/fee for service and Implications for service delivery
Co-Chair: Pat Bourne; Co-Chair: TBD
- d. IT hardware and software: review and recommendations for billing and documentation
Co-Chair: Janice Chamberlain; Co-Chair: TBD

5. Establish Future Meeting Schedule

Future meetings will be determined at an upcoming meeting.

Tasks

- Committee members are asked to submit their questions, comments and concerns regarding the attendance based reimbursement system to Pat Bourne, co-chair, at pbourne@sarah-inc.org.
- Committee members interested serving as Co-Chair or as a sub-committee member should contact Co-Chair Bourne.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Prewitt

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Department of Developmental Services