

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

March 2, 2010
CCPA Office, 35 Cold Spring Rd., Rocky Hill, CT
2:30 P.M.

Attendees: Pat Bourne, Co-Chair; Jerry Brennan, Kuhn Employment Opportunities; Terry Macy, SARAH-Tuxis; Joseph Drexler, DDS; Peter Mason, DDS; Mickey Herbst, Arc of Connecticut; Mary McKay, DDS; Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of DDS; Krista Pender, DDS

Summary of Meeting

Handouts: Agenda, 2/9/10 Summary of Meeting, Sub-Committee Membership List

1. Review of 2/9/10 Summary of Meeting – Accepted
2. Overview of waiver rates and attendance issues - presentation by DDS staff
Joseph Drexler and Peter Mason presented an overview of waiver rates and attendance issues which included a brief history, factors that led to rate based system, provider input into the rates, an explanation of where we were and where we are now, transition plan, safeguards.

The Operations Center distributed a handout – Transition to Attendance System

Based on computations by the Operations Center, the average attendance for agencies in January 2010 was 88%. Agencies that had discrepancies between authorizations and contracts may result in payments that may need adjustment. On a monthly basis, DDS will analyze data and relay this information to providers so that they can make adjustments to their budgets if necessary.

As indicated in the presentation, discussions on an attendance based rate system have been occurring over a period of years. It is unfortunate that the system had to be implemented before the system was tested and finalized, but this was deemed necessary to address department budget issues.

Web Res/Day system has been in existence for years with providers either using a paper system or more recently, a computerized system. Bringing all the reporting and billing systems into one automated system will enable both the Department and providers to withstand Federal scrutiny as to the validity and accuracy of payment for services provided.

The Department needs to be aware that in addition to the potential loss of income for providers, agencies may also incur expenses related to audits, etc.

At the 2/9/10 meeting the impact of SEI rate changes to providers was discussed. Since that meeting, DDS staff met with providers to discuss this issue. The results of this meeting were presented to Commissioner O'Meara who agreed to cap losses at 2% until long range solutions are developed. Another meeting of this group is scheduled for March 22, 2010.

3. Sub-Committee Reports

Sub-Committee Reports should be emailed to Maureen Prewitt for distribution to Advisory Committee. Deb Duval, DDS, is knowledgeable in many areas being discussed in sub-committees, and several have requested she be included in their membership. Her name has been submitted to Senator Harris for approval.

- a. Medicaid Waiver Requirements and analysis of waiver regulations
Co-Chairs: Mickey Herbst and Mary McKay
Minutes attached.
- b. Level of Need (LON): how are methodologies linked to funding
Co-Chairs: Terry Macy and Joe Drexler
Sub-committee will be meeting March 5
- c. Attendance-based/fee for service and Implications for service delivery
Co-Chairs: Pat Bourne and Peter Mason
Minutes attached
- d. IT hardware and software: review and recommendations for billing and documentation
Co-Chairs: Janice Chamberlain and Krista Pender
Minutes attached

4. Future Meeting Schedule

All future meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month at 2:30 P.M. Meetings will be scheduled at the LOB, however, we can be bumped from meeting rooms. Central Office will be used as a backup location.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 6 at 2:30 P.M., location TBD.

5. Other Issues

- Communication to Families
Families are either unaware or have been given misinformation about the Rate System changes. There is currently a letter on DDS' website, however, there need to be other avenues to get the correct information to them.
- Governor's Mitigation Implications:
On March 1st the Governor included a cut to day providers in her mitigation plan. Commissioner O'Meara indicated that this is still being evaluated to determine if it is part of the original 3.7 million cut or an additional cut.

Note: On March 3rd DDS determined that the March 1st Governor's Mitigation did not contain an additional cut for Day services.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Prewitt

Maureen Prewitt
Advisory Committee Administrative Staff
Department of Developmental Services