

Department of Developmental Services
Rate Study Committee
Minutes
2/21/2013

Present: Katie Banzhaf, Stephen Becker, Pauline Bouffard, Len Cipolline, Mary Pat DeCarlo, Mark Kovitch, Peter Mason, Paul Rosen.

Stand In Members: Chet Fisher, Stan Soby, Julia Wilcox.

The Rate Setting Committee was convened by Peter Mason at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of 1/17/2013 were approved as read. (Attachment #1).

Committee Reports:

Implementation Sub-Committee will be meeting tomorrow 2/22/2013.

Residential Issues: Pauline Bouffard reported that during each meeting the sub committee gets homework and reports back. She reviewed their findings on assistive technology and noted that they are hoping to post results/resources on the DDS website. The committee is about to wind up their work on technology and are moving on to “creative housing options”. It was reported that this evening from 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. there would be a “Community Conversation on Creative Housing” held at Bradford Hall.

Steve asked whether part of the work would include a look at the current waiver “models” (CLA, CRS, SLA). Peter reported that the Commissioner is looking to a separate stakeholder group to address CRS. Peter noted that he hopes the Residential Issues sub-committee will be able to identify other creative options.

CCH Committee: Peter distributed the CCH- Payment Authorization Form (Attachment #2). He noted that CCH by regulation has three levels: 1 <24 hrs, 2- 24 hrs, 3- 24 hrs comprehensive. It was noted that currently it is a subjective form that determines the levels and sometimes levels change due to licensure issues rather than client issues. The committee is looking at standardization using the LON: Level 1-LON 1-2; Level 2-LON 3-4, Level 3-LON 5 through 8. The committee is currently studying the impact on providers and clients if these were implemented.

The committee is not looking at the CTV rates, which include 8 rates based on LON, agency oversight and clinical support.

Data Management: Mark Kovich reported that the committee is scheduled to meet next week.

Sustainability: Peter reported that the committee has been stalled by changes in the committee membership. The committee needs to be reconvened.

IHS: Mary Pat and Peter distributed a document outlining the IHS LON Hours (Attachment # 3). Peter developed this grid based on actual attendance and LON.

They explained two reimbursement support models: 1 – includes a Safety Net Factor – or “on call” (note: “indirect” is not reimbursable by CMS). This model will include an annual allocation of \$4,384 added to the authorization and will be billable as long as the provider provides an on-call service.

The other model is designed for cluster apartments which have an overnight position available to support float to support resident as needed. (8 hrs overnight x7 = 56 hrs @\$12.00/hr sleep rate).

Peter distributed two sample “Draft Service Authorization IHS” forms (Attachments #4 & #5) with samples for “safety net” and “cluster” funding. These authorization forms will be generated by PRAT.

The “Draft Safety Net Category Rate” was distributed. (Attachment #6). Peter explained the category 1 for general safety net and category 2 for unique supports needs such as sign/interpreter, mental health.

The “Draft Cluster Rate” (Attachment #7) was distributed and discussed. It was noted that a cluster was currently being defined as seven or more.

Peter and Mary Pat reported that currently there are ten to twelve agencies with cluster apartments. The committee is completing their work tomorrow on definition by LON, monitoring for health & safety, distance between apts, overnight (awake or asleep).

The role of technology will need to be evaluated in model as well.

Next Steps: The committee will address Family Supports for IHS provided in the home. The plan is to start implementation 7/1/2013 with the new IHS rates. There is a need to discuss the transition process: first year get authorizations for LON and have one year to adjust rates.

Day Rate Transition Committee: Peter gave an update on the day rate transition. He reported that the committee is looking at the transition process and in order to gather feedback from providers they have designed and conducted a survey distributed by the Trades. The implementation date for the day rates is July 1, 2013. Providers above the rates will see their allocations go down and providers below the rates will see their allocations go up.

Steve Becker questioned whether there was any opportunity to look at “high need/low attendees?” Peter indicated that utilization will be less of an issue once the rates were corrected.

There was a question regarding the regions using the “residential guidelines” as the “residential rates”. Peter noted that the residential rates are “guidelines only not approved rates” but regions are using them. He agreed it was not the way to transition but it was all we have at this time. This continued into a discussion regarding clinical supports and the rates.

Next Meeting: Due to parking issues at DDS Central Office, CIB offered space for the next meeting. Julia also agreed to explore use of the conference room at CAN.

Other States: No one on the committee had new information to report. Stan did mention Ohio and Minnesota as resources for technology. He will check further.

Public Comment: Julia, on behalf of the provider community, recognized Peter Mason for all the work being done on the transition to rate committees. There was no additional public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Banzhaf