

Transition to Rates Workgroups Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

In Attendance: Peter Mason (co-chair), Pat Bourne (co-chair), Stephen Morris (minutes), Sarah Kolb (Office of Policy & Management), Stan Soby, Elisa Velardo, Matthew P. Reyther, Anne Bordieri (CCPA), Katie Banzhaf, Sheryl Kemp, Janice Chamberline, Julia Wilcox

Action Items highlighted

Approve minutes: Minutes from the October 25, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously

Status Update on Transition Effect on Providers: Statewide transition meeting went pretty well according to Peter and others who were in attendance. It was a full house with at least 120 in attendance. Everyone got his or her individual agency impact detail report. New questions and answers were developed as a result of the meeting (separate handout). **Frequently asked questions will be put onto the DDS web site.** Some regions have started individual meetings with providers and other regions are starting to hold those meeting this week. A new agency 'above/below' list was distributed (handout). SEI has been left out since a new system will be developed for that. Agencies with budgets below \$250,000 were also left off the report.

Service Models and LON Rates: Some committee members expressed their surprise and concern upon learning that a differential was applied to LON based rates (separate handout) for "sheltered" workshops. Peter mentioned that this has been in discussion for some time. The rationale assumes that staffing ratios are lower in sheltered programs. Peter clarified that there were separate LON rates for sheltered employment and separate LON rates for DSO/GSE's. SEI will also have a separate funding mechanism. Discussion regarding the definitions of "DSO/GSE" vs "Sheltered". The definitions are not clear nor are they interpreted equally from region to region (or person to person). The following handouts were distributed: HCBS Consolidated Waiver Operations Manual (pp 14-20), Service Descriptions (from contract). The committee questioned the need for service definitions in a level of need based rate system. Participants should be able to choose the services they want based on LON rates.. **Peter will take the concerns and input from the group back to Central Office for discussion and assistance with clarification and or guidelines and will put the Sheltered Workshop LON rates on the DDS website. Peter apologized for not communicating it to this group and agreed to get more information out about it.**

Peter distributed information about proposed Transportation rates (reference old rate schedule dated 5/4/09). This proposed rate structure is based on a mileage range instead of straight mileage calculation. Future calculations will be based on 2 one way trips and twice the current mileage rate. Transportation rate changes will be implemented concurrent with the LON based rates.

A question was asked about split programs. Peter responded that for those with "legacy funding" things will not change in January (they would be subject to the 7-year phase in). New people coming into programs and people changing programs will be subject to the new LON rates. Another question was asked about the mechanics to right size individual budgets as changes are made to the provider as part of the phase in. Peter responded that the regions have been advised to apply it to one or as few people as needed (primarily those most above or below the average) vs. spreading a little over lots of people. The Resource Manager (in conjunction w/PRAT) is the person who will coordinate this with the provider. These details are not yet in writing. Peter agreed to start formalizing some of this into written guidelines and send it out to the committee for review. Will families be notified of changes? The committee agreed that it shouldn't matter much for people on the master contract. People with individual budgets (VSAs) will be looked at differently and discussions about changes will include the families. The committee asked if providers can begin right-sizing budgets (with zero net fiscal impact) now. Peter said yes and the annual financial meeting with the region would be a good time/place to do this.

Discussion regarding the concerns families are expressing about the future of services for younger siblings. Peter will share this concern with the Central Office.

Updates from Sub-committees

Implementation Committee: The last activity was the provider session on the 15th. Peter met with business managers to determine the transition guidelines for providers, hardships, etc. The next meeting is on Friday, December 2nd.

Sustainability: The committee met a few weeks ago and is continuing to review concept of living wage and the cost/benefit impact on the state. It was suggested the committee attempt to determine what it costs the state per child on Husky. A recommendation was also made to bring in a representative from the Husky program to talk to the committee.

1. Next Meeting: 12/21/11, Wallingford DDS 1:00 PM conference room A

Submitted by: Steve Morris