

## CQI Part C Fees Workgroup

Meeting Summary  
February 20, 2001

Department for the Blind  
And  
Vision Impaired  
Richmond, VA

**Those attending:** Anne Simmons, Carol Burke, Emily Dreyfus, John Jackson, Anne Lucas, Shirley Ricks, Liz Fletcher, Glen Slonnegar, and Mary Ann Discenza

**Those absent:** Wanda Pruett, Sheila Null, Joe Sharrer, Joan Pine, Patti Seklemian, Forrest Mercer, and Pat Abrams

I. Update HB 2738 – Anne Lucas

The bill was modified and language requiring emergency regulations to promulgate policies and procedures eliminated. Bill passed the House, referred to Senate Health, Education and Welfare for further action.

II. Timeline for Implementation of family fee procedures – see attachment. (Timelines have been revised based on action from the full workgroup.)

III. Develop plan for public comment – full workgroup

- ® Workgroup discussed process for review of public comment
- ® Consensus from the workgroup that all members would have access to full text of public comments received if requested
- ® Staff will undertake cataloguing/cross-referencing comments (including frequencies) and summarize issue(s) and provide brief synopsis of potential action(s). Full workgroup will discuss and develop action item(s).

**Note: Public comment/feedback due to workgroup on or about April 26, 2001. There will be a meeting of the workgroup on April 30, 2001 from 10:00 until 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired Library and Resource Center. After the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, future meetings of the full workgroup will be determined by the training sub-committee**

- IV. Discussion of issues related to criteria for selecting pilots, development of training materials, identifying training team members, calendar and sites, development of survey tools for collecting financial impact data, etc.
- ® Considerable discussion about selecting pilots, how many, implementation dates, etc. Consensus from the workgroup that full implementation (statewide) occur before January 1, 2002. Around this discussion several alternatives for “fast-tracking” training to localities was discussed and how to integrate modifications to the procedures after the first phase or pilots. In addition, what data is needed, identifying potential need for resources, programmatic and philosophical issues, contractual issues with private providers, the Part C Office’s capability to respond to the TA needs that will arise from localities during phase-in etc. Revised timelines were offered. (See attachment for revised timelines).
  - ® Criteria for site selection of the first 10 sites include but is not limited to: single agency direct services providers (both public and private), single agency with multiple providers (both public and private), single agency with multiple jurisdictions, rural, urban, geographic differences, state-wideness, agency with CSB fiscal agent, agency with non-CSB fiscal agent, agency with fee-for-service, agency with capitated rate, agency with high Medicaid population, agency with heavy reliance on therapy model of intervention, agency with educator model of intervention, localities identified through family survey data where fees were impacting access to services etc. Once sites are identified, the list of volunteers will be circulated among the workgroup.
  - ® Staff will prepare draft letter of invitation for volunteers for first phase or pilot stage and disseminate to workgroup for feedback/comment.
  - ® Discussion about the potential of identifying financial resources (set aside Part C funds) to essentially hold pilots harmless until concrete data confirms financial impact of standardized family fees. This data will become important if there is need to ask for additional funds.
  - ® John J. agreed to take a “first pass” at developing tracking form for capturing financial data; draft will be available at the next meeting of the full workgroup.
  - ® Discussion about the pros and cons of CSB’s agreeing to be in the first round (pilots). Issue will be to determine benefit(s) of

standardization of family fee scales to motivate localities to participate in the pilot. **Deadline for identification of pilots March 30, 2001.**

- ® Workgroup discussed the importance of developing information for families about fees and the potential impact on services. Challenges for preparing family information include proposed regulations related to family choice about paying fee or accessing insurance or both and evidence of financial impact of choice(s), prior notice/procedural safeguards, etc.
- ® The role of the IFSP team in developing outcomes and interventions was discussed from the perspective of frequency and intensity of interventions, the importance of educating families and providers about the IFSP process, and consideration about looking at other states models of service delivery.
- ® Brief discussion about identification of training materials, e.g. 1040 form, family financial scenarios reflecting impact of proposed family fee scale on families, information about co-pays/deductibles, fiscal guidance materials (see guidance packet developed by Richmond Central for ideas), development of philosophical basis for standardization of family fees, e.g. why the system needed fixing. Sub-committee identified: Emily Dreyfus, Carol Burke, John Jackson, and Mary Ann Discenza. Discussion about asking other individuals representative of private providers and families to participate in the development of the training materials and curriculum. Who will do training: John Jackson's staff, Part C staff, family members, member of the EI/MT

#### V. Information dissemination – full workgroup

Q&A for BCW web site was discussed and strategies developed. Staff will coordinate Q&A and disseminate to workgroup. Anticipate short turn-around time for comments/feedback. John J., Shirley R., and Anne L. will assist with formulating the answers. Arrangements will be made to post Q&A on BCW web site.

**Note: The full workgroup will meet on Wednesday March 14, 2001 immediately after the VICC meeting. Please note that the location of this meeting has been changed and the meeting will be at the Hanover School Board Office. Additional details about which room the meeting will be held in will be available soon.**

Meeting adjourned.

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Mary Ann Discenza

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