

## **CQI Part C Fees Workgroup**

### **Meeting Summary**

**March 13, 2001**

### **Hanover School Board**

**Ashland, VA**

**Those attending:** Carol Burke, Emily Dreyfus, Anne Lucas, Shirley Ricks, Glen Slonnegar, Cherie Takemoto (guest), Wanda Pruett, and Mary Ann Discenza

**Those absent:** Liz Fletcher, John Jackson, Joe Sharrer, Patti Seklemian, Forrest Mercer, Wanda Pruett, Joan Pine, and Pat Abrams

Workgroup members received revised copies of the timelines for implementation of uniform family fees to conform to consensus of the workgroup that uniform family fees would be implemented statewide before January 1, 2002. There was limited discussion about this item.

Draft data collection tools were not available for today's meeting. In light of this, the item was tabled until the next meeting scheduled for Monday April 2, 2001.

The remainder of the meeting involved a discussion about FAQ's and review of draft correspondence for the field related to selection criteria for participating in the initial phase/field test. Workgroup members were already presented with draft documents to review and made several comments/suggestions. Pertinent points from the discussion are listed below:

- Availability of additional Part C funds – In December 2000 the Early Intervention Agencies Committee approved the availability of \$605,000 to be distributed among local councils who can demonstrate additional funding needs for the provision of direct services for this fiscal year (through September 30, 2001). The Department (DMHMRSAS) is currently finalizing the process and the reporting requirements for local councils to access these funds. There was discussion about wrapping fee issues into the process related to accessing additional funds. For clarification purposes, if a locality experienced revenue shortfalls related to family fees, the locality would be eligible to access these funds, if the locality could demonstrate additional funding needs for direct services.
- There were questions about determining criteria for site selection for the initial phase/field test about which localities have burdensome fee systems, recognition that the workgroup would need to assist with problem-solving with

the first ten councils who agree to participate in the initial phase-in/field test. Further discussion revolved around analyzing data from 6-8 councils who have generated fees before 1996 and after 1996 to determine characteristics of the localities and to analyze other pertinent data.

- Suggestion was made to add step-by-step procedures to the policies around a family's refusal to pay for services. This suggestion was offered in response to comments about issues that could be raised during public comment.
- Recommendation for the workgroup to consider forming a subcommittee for training. This recommendation will be acted upon at the next meeting. Volunteers should contact staff.

After reviewing the FAQ's, the workgroup added the following questions to the list:

1. How do I make public comment?
2. How do the policies and procedures define household and whose income is counted to determine household income?
3. Will localities be held harmless during the implementation period of uniform family fees?
4. Can parents use their insurance and access the sliding fee scale for help with co-pays and deductibles?
5. What happens if a family has been determined to have an ability to pay, refuse the appeals process after it is offered and refuse to pay for services?
6. After a locality implements uniform family fee policies and procedures, will localities stop collecting financial impact data and when does it end?
7. Why will local councils need to access additional funding for direct services if they implement the uniform family fee procedures?

The meeting was adjourned.

**Please Note: April Meeting Schedule**

**Monday April 2, 2001 10:00AM until 1:00PM  
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired  
Library and Resource Center Conference Room**

**Agenda:**

**1. Training-**

- Forming training sub-committee**
- Establishing meeting schedule for sub-committee**
- Determining principles and key concepts**
- Identifying training teams**
- Establishing tentative dates**

2. Selection of Pilots for Initial Phase-in
3. Data collection tool(s) - John Jackson

**Monday April 30, 2001 10:00 until 4:00 PM**  
**Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired**  
**Library and Resource Center Conference Room**

**Agenda:**

1. Review of public comment
2. Discussion- revision to policies and procedures
3. Finalize development of training materials - June session