

## CQI Part C Fees and Ability to Pay

Meeting Summary  
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired  
Library Resource Conference Room – Richmond  
April 16, 2002

Those attending: Brenda Crockett, Linda Eggleston, Tracy Miller, Katy McCullough, Forrest Mercer, Nancy Butts, Carol Burke, Emily Dreyfus, Liz Fletcher, Kay Toombs, and Mary Ann Discenza

The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm strategies for developing products for local councils implementing uniform procedures for ability to pay and family fees and to determine the on-going technical assistance and training needs of localities.

Staff provided examples of specific tools such as a service coordinator's script and flow chart. After considerable discussion, workgroup consensus: 1) The script would require considerable modification in order to meet the need of localities and at this point in implementation, not an effective training tool however with modifications, the script and the flow chart could be used to train new staff. (Several versions of the flow chart were disseminated to the workgroup prior to today's meeting). Some of the modifications discussed included developing the script and flow chart to be more interactive. 2) The flow chart developed by Katy McCullough is the version members want disseminated with other guidance materials.

Workgroup discussion then focused on disseminating answers to questions raised during implementation on an ongoing basis. Consensus: regional meetings are the most effective forum for posing questions, accessing answers and sharing strategies for implementing uniform family fee procedures. In addition the workgroup recommended the Part C Office consider including Q&A's related to ability to pay in the monthly updates.

Around a discussion about finalizing the Q&A draft document that members raised concerns about the draft ATP document. A concern centered around edits and the fact that the workgroup did not see the document once the revisions were made after public comment. The workgroup requested the Part C Office to disseminate the draft document to the workgroup prior to disseminating it to the field. There was discussion about the need to finalize the document to meet OSEP requirements and that further edits could not be made to the document. The discussion centered on using the draft document to assist in formulating questions. Outcomes:

1. Workgroup reviews the draft and submits questions to staff by May 6, 2002.
2. Staff compiles questions and e-mails out to workgroup to ensure no questions were left off the list.
3. Staff drafts responses to the questions and e-mails to workgroup prior to the meeting scheduled for May 22, 2002.
4. May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting agenda: discuss and finalize responses.

Workgroup requested clarification about use of negotiated rate vs. full charge. Does a family who does not access the sliding fee scale pay the locality's full charge for services or a negotiated rate if one existed. In addition there was a request for

clarification about deductibles and how deductibles are treated related to the cap. Examples provided included:

1. A family has a cap less than the family's deductible ( example: \$100 cap and \$300 deductible ) The family receives four services a month at a charge of \$100 per visit. What does the family pay? What does Part C pay?
2. A family has a cap of \$600 and the family's deductible is \$300. The family receives four services a month at a charge of \$100 per visit. What does the family pay? What does Part C pay?

Related to the issue of deductibles; it was agreed that Nancy Butts and Tracy Miller would develop multiple scenarios and research regulations regarding deductibles, staff would arrange a conference call to review with them and discuss strategies for incorporating findings into guidance for the field and form the basis for developing procedures consistent with HCFA requirements for handling deductibles. There is a question about whether there is a need for a legal interpretation of this issue.

The workgroup requested staff to partner with DSS to research information on non-custodial placement related to fees and financial responsibility. Forrest indicated he would be willing to research this issue and report back to the workgroup at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

**Note: The next meeting of the workgroup is scheduled for May 22, 2002. Please note that the location of the meeting has changed. The workgroup will meet at the Henrico CSB in Conference Room B.**