

## **CQI Workgroup on Part C Fees**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Henrico CSB - Conference Room C**

**April 20, 2000**

**Those attending:** Emily Dreyfus, Liz Fletcher, Ann Simmons, Carmen Sanchez, Shirley Ricks, Liz Hutton, Beth Skufca, Christa Shifflett, Geri Pratt, Anne Lucas, Joe Sharrer, Forrest Mercer, and Mary Ann Discenza.

**Those absent:** Barry Mason, Glen Slonneger, Pat Abrams, Joel Rothenberg, Joy Yeh, Martha Adams, Wanda Pruett, Patti Seklemian, and John Jackson.

Discussion occurred around the role of the workgroup vis-a-vis departmental meetings. Some workgroup members expressed the concern that departmental meetings were occurring and that decisions about ability to pay issues were being made outside the purview of the workgroup. Further concerns were expressed about the workgroup's role and whether decisions were being made elsewhere and issues brought to the table were not open for discussion, but rather decided elsewhere. Clarification was provided and the workgroup reminded about the ground rules for consensus building established at the first meeting around the recommendations forthcoming from the workgroup and the Department's interest in maintaining a collaborative relationship with the workgroup. On a related matter, the Department was asked to provide additional revenue data for FY 98-99 for each of the CSBs.

The suggestion was made that the workgroup consider nominating a volunteer to chair the meetings. It was agreed that anyone interested in filling this position would notify staff. If more than one candidate emerged, the workgroup would vote their preference via e-mail prior to the next meeting.

The workgroup heard a update on the meeting of CQI representatives with members of the MR Council. The committee consists of Joan Pine, Debbie Burcham, Betty Krantz, Geri Pratt, and John Jackson. Draft questions were developed and disseminated to this committee for feedback and comment. Since one member of the committee still needed to respond to the draft, the questions were not disseminated to the CQI workgroup. The committee may need to hold another meeting. The MR Council meets on May 3. Discussion occurred around dissemination of the survey to the field. The Department would prefer the survey disseminated through the MR Council and not through the usual procedures involving the association's administrative committee review, Commissioner sign-off, etc. There was no action on this suggestion.

The workgroup brain stormed strategies for a comparative analysis of the hypothetical fee scales to determine the impact on families. Christa presented data about the scales specifically related to the

families currently enrolled in early intervention in that locality. (Handout at the meeting.) After considerable discussion, Ann S., Carmen, Emily, and Christa volunteered to collect data from their respective localities (Fairfax, Northwestern, and Central) as well as Loudoun, Prince William and Rappahannock using families currently enrolled, analyzing the impact on the CSB if scale 1, 2, or 3 were implemented. These localities are representative of boards with the largest family fee revenue reported. Other discussion involved methodologies for collecting the data, sample size, family income, family size, cleaning up fee scales and follow-up with families who have insurance (from data collected by SVICC). Staff will inquire of the DMHMRSAS Office of Research and Evaluation what constitutes a valid sample size given the number of families currently enrolled in Part C statewide. This information will be shared with the workgroup at the next meeting.

Points to include in the data analysis:

1. What would be the impact on families if there were higher fees? What would be the out-of-pocket cost for families at both ends of the economic scale?
2. What would be the impact on local boards if a statewide fee scale was implemented?
3. What would be the impact if fees are capped?

The next part of the meeting involved a discussion about brain storming questions for DMAS in relationship to exempting family fees for families on Medicaid or who have private insurance. Outcomes of the discussion:

- 1) Would DMAS have issues with recommendations involving adjusting co-pays for families with private insurance or families enrolled in CMSIP?
- 2) If a recommendation to exempt certain Part C services were implemented, would this impact Medicaid reimbursement for covered services that would be at no cost to families? (Note: the issue of which service should be consistently charged has not been resolved.)
- 3) Under a current federal HCFA exemption, Medicaid can be billed for evaluation and assessment for Part C Medicaid eligible children. Does DMAS have issues with the no cost to families provision for children currently enrolled with Medicaid or CMSIP? Would DMAS be willing to respond to these questions in writing for the workgroup?
- 4) In like manner, Anne L. will call the Bureau of Insurance to inquire about whether the Commission would have issues if another source of funding was used to pay co-pays and deductibles (e.g. similar to the Early Intervention Mandate) or if co-pays/deductibles were waived. Anne will also discuss this issue with John Jackson.
- 5) Anne L. will ask for a OAG opinion about insurers using financial disincentives that are in direct violation of the IFSP and in violation of families rights as outlined in Part C of IDEA.
- 6) Anne L. will inquire of OSEP if there are any statutory prohibition(s) for Part C to accept responsibility for payment for co-pays/deductibles for families with private insurance.

Anne L. indicated that the workgroup's *Guiding Principles* were in process, had been reviewed by Commissioner Kellogg and forwarded to the OAG for review and that eventually they would be forwarded to the Agency Heads for review and feedback.

The final item involved a review of the draft of consistent procedures for statewide implementation. There were a number of suggestions and staff was asked to make changes and disseminate to the workgroup prior to the next meeting. (See handout)

The agenda for the next meeting includes:

1. Status/update private providers survey
2. Data analysis of selected boards
3. Review of draft consistent procedures
4. Review of draft family information about ability to pay.

The May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the workgroup has been  canceled. The next meeting of the workgroup is scheduled for **Thursday May 18, 2000 from 12:00 until 4:00 PM**. The meeting will be held in Conference Room C at the Henrico CSB located in Glen Allen.

**Meeting schedule:**

**Thursday      June 8, 2000                      1:00 until 4:00                      Henrico CSB**