

CQI Part C Fees & Ability to Pay

Meeting Summary

Richmond, VA

June 4, 2001

Attending: Wanda Pruett, Brenda Crockett, Anne Lucas, Liz Fletcher, Tracy Miller, Emily Dreyfus, Carol Burke and Mary Ann Discenza

Absent: Barbara Willard, Linda Eggleston, Shirley Ricks, John Jackson, Forrest Mercer, Pat Abrams, and Glen Slonneger

Workgroup was provided copies of draft 4/30 meeting summary with revisions proffered by Emily Dreyfus. Members agreed to review information and e-mail comments to staff.

Brief discussion followed related to data collection. Tracy Miller has agreed to partner with John Jackson to develop data tool(s). Issues were raised related to what is the purpose of collecting data, what are the outcomes to be achieved, e.g. to determine the financial impact of the uniform family fee scale on Virginia's early intervention system, what base year will be used for the comparison in order to determine financial impact, etc. Other issues: how much are councils paying out for services to children (based upon family fees), what is the potential revenue loss, what will be required to supplement lost revenue. The workgroup agreed that the focus of the meeting on June 13 would be to discuss data collection with John Jackson followed by a meeting with the first phase-in localities on June 14 to brainstorm options for data collection.

Discussion about Attachment C in the draft ability to pay practices document related to proposed changes to the financial agreement form and the workgroup's decision to do two things: (1) offer the financial agreement form with changes to the phase-in sites, (2) try to clarify issues related to the financial agreement form during training, and (3) postpone all changes to the draft document until the Attorney General's office provides comments about the revised document.

Workgroup requested staff to e-mail information about forthcoming training to all local councils including the draft document, travel directions, agenda, etc. Brenda Crockett agreed to tweak the family scenarios and send them out to the workgroup for feedback. It was also agreed that the family scenarios and a list of early intervention services would be included as handouts for the training. (The list of early intervention services will be added to the draft document with other revisions as appropriate and indicated.) Suggestion was also made that a flyer be developed for localities to send with letters to families informing them about changes in fees. Carol Burke agreed to draft the family letter and if possible, be included as a handout during the training and there was discussion about the VICC ATP workgroup developing the family flyer and Emily Dreyfus agreed to present this to the workgroup.

Clarification was provided related to written prior notice for families. Attachment A (Family Information About Fees) can serve as the prior notice for families but language will be added to the Part C prior notice forms concerning family fees for early intervention services. This revised prior notice form can be given at the same time the family receives notice of evaluation and assessment.

Workgroup discussed some policy issues related to charging for early intervention services, specifically, assistive technology and other non-covered (Medicaid or private insurance) early intervention services. There was agreement that although policy issues exist, the uniform family fee system would be implemented under the current structure. Over time, changes will be made and clarification provided through technical assistance from the Lead Agency using mechanisms such as guidance documents, Q&A's, etc. The workgroup emphasized the need for correspondence from Commissioner Kellogg to CSB Executive Directors and others about the uniform family fee system and requirements for full implementation by January 1, 2002 including information about a capped family fee system, start-up dates for local implementation (November or December), and dates for regional trainings.

Some discussion occurred about the use of taxable income in determining family fees. Some members felt strongly that the issue of calculating taxable income requires further explanation and detailed information for localities is required if a family does not have a federal 1040 tax form from the previous year, how to access the sliding fee scale if there is no federal tax form, and under what circumstances can a family access the fee appeal process.

Remainder of the meeting involved discussion about training agenda including presenters for various components of the agenda, evaluation forms, and related training issues.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting of the workgroup will take place on Wednesday June 13, 2001 immediately following the VICC meeting. The meeting will be held at the United Methodist Church on Skipwith Road in Richmond.