

**CQI Workgroup on Part C Fees
And
Ability to Pay**

Meeting Summary

**Department for the Visually Impaired
Administration Building Conference Room
August 21, 2000**

Those attending: Shirley Ricks, Liz Hutton, Anne Simmons, Sheila Null, Christa Shifflett, John Jackson, Forrest Mercer, Glen Slonnegar and Mary Ann Discenza.

Those absent: Anne Lucas, Joy Yeh, Martha Adams, Joan Pine, Joe Sharrer, Geri Pratt, Emily Dreyfus, Barry Mason, Wanda Pruett, and Patti Seklemian.

First item of business - Private Provider Update

- ' 26 local councils have private providers in their local networks
- ' 10 councils responded to the private provider survey
- ' 5 councils reported fee collections from private providers
- ' \$9,906 total family fee income reported from five councils over a six month period
- ' Represents approximately \$38.69 per family

Discussion occurred around strategies for collecting data prospectively from private providers in order to assess financial impact of family fees for providers and if appropriate use the data to support potential future legislative action. The form would be implemented 1/1/2001 and use information from localities, such as family monthly fees collected, lost revenue to providers and CSB's as well as track data on cost avoidance/cost savings for staff position/time, postage, etc. by not billing families in order to know if additional funding is needed. Outcome: consensus that the provider survey data would be included as an attachment to the report for the General Assembly with a recommendation that the data be monitored and measured prospectively to track the outcomes. For purposes of the legislative report: the workgroup will develop a form for implementation 1/1/2001 to track this information. Limited discussion occurred about the Part C local contract for continuing participation for FFY 2001-2002 and whether to recommend attaching the data tool to local contracts including developing a "deliverables@around requiring localities to track data starting in January 2001. The sole purpose of collecting this information is to monitor the extent to which funds are being lost, to determine what savings there are, and to determine whether additional funding is needed from the General Assembly.

The workgroup spent some time discussing the content of the legislative report. Pertinent points from this discussion:

- ' Various documents in draft form must be finalized
- ' Information packet must be compiled and forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for review and sign-off (internal review will occur first)
- ' Time lines were identified including dates for submission to Commissioner's Office and Secretary's office
- ' Writing committee was identified: John Jackson, Christa Shifflett, Sheila Null, Shirley Ricks, Liz Hutton, Forrest Mercer, and Mary Ann Discenza

Consensus from the workgroup:

1. The VICC and Agency Heads will be informed about the status and content of the report.
2. John Jackson and Liz Hutton will present the workgroup's products to the VICC at the September meeting including a presentation about recommendations for a statewide fee scale and standardized procedures and forms for ability to pay mechanisms and appeals processes.
3. The whole workgroup will not meet again formally. The writers will meet at least once and rely on e-mail to make revisions to the report, etc.
4. The report will be disseminated for a 60-day public comment period.

The final item of business had to do with reviewing draft documents related to the fee appeals process and financial agreement form. Changes were made to draft documents and there was agreement that the revised draft would be e-mailed back out to workgroup members. At the same time, John J. requested workgroup to send revisions to the Family Information draft ASAP. Question came up in the meeting about Part C Policy Letter related to whether or not Part C services can be terminated if a family refuses to pay for services. Staff said they would check this and get back to the workgroup with a response.

The meeting was adjourned.