

CSB Attendees: Cheryelle Cruickshank, Joanne Siegel, Bryan Rothenstein, Josie Davide

DOHMH Staff: Marnie Davidoff, Reyana McKenzie, Naomi Legros

Action items:

- DOHMH review of Managed Care Plan regulations and reinvestment requirements.
- Engage with IAC to potentially share and analyze data on Medicaid terminations and service losses.

Call to Order: 10:00

Meeting Resolution:

No formal resolutions were presented or voted on during this meeting.

Member Updates:

Policy and Legislative Developments:

The Parity Bill on **Durable Medical Equipment** (DME) was vetoed by the Governor, despite strong legislative support. Joanne Siegel reported that efforts are underway to override the veto. The veto was linked to the bill being bundled with other Medicaid-related measures.

Members expressed concern that Medicaid Managed Care Plans are deducting administrative fees from already inadequate Medicaid rates. There is a need to determine whether managed care reinvestment requirements are governed by contract provisions or state regulations. Marnie indicated that the Health Department can examine the regulatory framework for managed care oversight.

Family Fear and School Engagement

CSB Members observed:

- Some families are afraid to let their children leave the house except for school.
- A decline in attendance among non-English-speaking families due to fears of ICE presence near schools.
- NYCPS requires ICE to have proper documentation, but ICE still stands outside school buildings.
- Attendance is already lower for students with disabilities.
- Many students are not receiving the full range of services in their IEPs due to a shortage of staff with appropriate language skills.

Benefits and Eligibility Challenges

SNAP:

- Benefits have been reduced.

Medicare/Medicaid Dual Enrollment

- Individuals dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid are now being charged a \$185 monthly fee.
- Some individuals previously enrolled under MAGI have been informed they no longer qualify.

- The appeals process is complex and difficult, particularly for people with disabilities who require communication support.

Advocacy and Consent Barriers

- Advocates can only speak on behalf of clients when verbal consent is given in person.
- If a client cannot provide verbal consent, they must appear in person at an HRA office.
- This process is especially burdensome for individuals without advocates or with mobility challenges.

Medicaid Recertification

- Recertification is now required every six months.
- People with disabilities are supposed to be exempt, but it is unclear whether this applies to community-based individuals or only those in group homes.
- Renewals must be completed through an online portal, which poses challenges for individuals without digital access.

Medicaid Advantage Plans

- Several plans are withdrawing due to inadequate funding.
- Clients are required to select new plans by **November 1**.
- Payments for enrollees are expected to double.
- Individuals with OPWDD should have straight Medicaid and the option to choose a Medicare plan.

Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) and Service Continuity

- CCOs are dropping individuals as soon as they lose Medicaid coverage, rather than assisting with reinstatement.
- Only **two active CCOs** remain.

PHP Demonstration Project

- The PHP demonstration project for dual-eligible individuals has ended.
- Participants are being transitioned into other plans.

Provider Reimbursement Issues

- Providers often are not notified when Medicaid coverage for clients has been terminated.
- As a result, they continue providing services that go unreimbursed.
- Providers can only back-bill for up to three months.

Funding, Program, and Provider Concerns

Diversity and Inclusion

- Some providers are removing diversity-related terminology from their websites due to concerns about losing federal funding.
- Several grants have been cut.

Access, Equity, and Service Gaps

Language Access

- Federal forms are being sent to families only in English and are not translated.
- Members discussed whether AI could be used to assist with translation.

Education and Transition to Adult Services

- Members are interested in receiving data from NYC PS on graduation rates for students with disabilities
- Youth with severe disabilities face long delays transitioning into adult programs after graduation.
- Many lose access to 1:1 supports available in the school system and remain at home without care.
- There has been a decline in brick-and-mortar program options due to the shift toward integration, reducing service options for individuals with significant disabilities.

Additional Comments and Next Steps:

- DOHMH review of Managed Care Plan regulations and reinvestment requirements.
- Engage with IAC to share and analyze data on Medicaid terminations and service losses.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00AM