

Contract & Financial Issues Committee, November 17, 2022, 1:00pm

Updates

EDIT Update – Donna Nieman

Donna reported that the last meeting took place on 10/20/22. She stated that Jackie reported the charter for EDIT is with PIHPs therefore, communication with CMHs is not as predominant as it is with the CMHs. Lisa Morse stated that Jackie did not acknowledge the fact that there could be major changes at the EDIT level that could be most impactful for CMHs. Lisa asked Donna to please make sure that these major changes (not items like modifiers) be brought to the attention of the CFI group post haste so that whatever that issue is can be addressed by the Contract Negotiations Team. Donna agreed stating she can do that. Donna stated that she got the impression that the Department felt that any negotiations needing to take place should take place with the PIHPs, but some must be negotiated with the CMHs since some contracts are between the State and directly with the CMH.

Donna then gave details of discussions on clarification of ABA codes (97153/97154), Housing support benefit and some overlap with CCBHC, SIS and Case Management overlap (Dept is saying it cannot, Lisa Morse stated that it should be allowed... Lisa will add to the EDIT section of contract negotiations), Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS – presentation from Kim Batsche-McKenzie), CLS and music therapy, biofeedback and neurofeedback as allowable modalities, telemedicine rules effective date, EQI update, COB Subgroup agenda established for 2023, tiered rate inpatient psych services Workgroup is on hold, tiered rate for licensed residential is moving forward discussion assessment tools and development of a pilot. Group briefly discussed the harm that can be caused by tiered rates, expressing concern that this should NOT be an EDIT issue – it should be a negotiations issue. Lisa Morse will add this to the Contract Negotiations list. Donna continued with her update, giving details on Code Chart Changes subgroup, supported employment modifier codes, and the Provider qualifications Chart updates – which saw about 29 updates to the chart since July. A log of all changes is kept on the website. She stated that a new workgroup will be created to review and update the clarifications for the CLS tab in the code chart and when they can overlap. Group then discussed that the EDIT group is slowly making policy changes, without negotiations taking place, and this has become problematic for CMHs. Lisa asked Donna to identify a lead PIHP person for EDIT. Donna stated that Stacia would be the most likely candidate.

GF Negotiations – Lisa Morse

Lisa reported that they met last in September. She spoke about mediation proposals, local funding obligations schedule, guardianship reimbursement, medical bills from State Facilities, Self-D technical requirements and guidance, and Recipient Rights reporting changes. The next meeting for this group will take place in January. Lisa stated that the state facility billing issue has been on the agenda for over 2 years. Negotiations have come to a standstill. Bob Sheehan stated that the Association will be seeking an opinion from the Attorney General on what the definition of “services” to be provided is. Lisa then spoke about the FSR reporting bundle and the sixty-day requirement. She stated that if there was a problem with the FSR bundle someone should let her know to add that to the list.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan was unavailable. Bob Sheehan reported that last week’s election saw the Democrats sweep the House, Senate and Governor’s seat. He stated that Proposal 1 (on term limits) passed, as well as Proposal 2 and Proposal 3. He reported that 56 of the House Members are brand new, so need to be educated on Mental Health issues. Bob stated that he was proud of our members for the work done to defang the privatization efforts this past year or two. He stated that Lame Duck will likely be short and full of farewell speeches, there is always a chance that action can arise. He spoke about the 3-prong effort – fight against privatization efforts, develop new ideas, and continue to partner with private health plans that are helpful.

Funding Issues – Bruce Bridges

Final FY2022 funding compared to actuary expectation

Bruce reviewed this document showing that in 2021, a 7% surplus over what was projected. For 2022 there was approximately 2% surplus from what was projected.

FY2023 Actuarial funding projection

Bruce reviewed overall projected Medicaid funding which shows how much funding would be there in 2022 if that funding came on a full year basis versus what is being projected for FY23, as well as the difference between those numbers. He also gave details on Wage Pass Through or Hazard Pay, and the services that were considered DCW service for that purpose. He gave details of enrollment and the projected count of enrollees, including increases. Bob Sheehan stated that this is projecting growth in enrollment, but the concern is if those projections fade, rates may not be adjusted quickly enough to make a difference. He urged everyone to keep an eye on this.

Potential revised report format for FY2023

Bruce reviewed the new layout, with graphs, that he would like to use moving forward for reports provided to the CFI Committee. He felt that the charts shown can help predict when projections are changing rapidly. He showed examples of how the graphs can be helpful for use with DAB, HMP, TANF and HSW populations. Bob Sheehan asked Bruce to let he or Alan know immediately when he sees these changes beginning to occur.

Historic past 7-year funding comparison

Bob Sheehan stated that this comparison showed how there have been drought years along with flood years, but the public system cannot keep the surplus in those flood years whereas the private health plans can.

Discussion of Key Issues – Bruce Bridges

No Items were moved to this section.

Other

Lisa Morse stated that the next CFI meeting was scheduled for the same time as the next Negotiations meeting. Dan Russell will try to change the date and or time before that meeting.

Valarie Pierson asked how everyone was handling the Minimum pay for ABA services since the Fee schedule has been removed. Mila Todd stated that the most recent PIHP amendment includes the fee schedule for ABA services. Valarie asked if it included the updates. Mila will check to see if it does.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Contract & Financial Issues Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2023, 1:00pm. This meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:27pm