Quarterly Provider Meeting Updates

September 30, 2024

A provider meeting was held on September 30, 2024. The Q&A not answered in these notes have been posted with the meeting updates.

**Welcome: Christy Johnson**

Christy Johnson welcomed the attendees. Christy provided the following updates:

Providers have an opportunity to provide agenda items for the quarterly provider meeting. If a provider has a topic to add to the agenda, an email should be sent to OCDD-HCBS@la.gov with the topic information. The provider should also include “Topic for Quarterly Provider Meeting” in the subject. This will allow OCDD to vet the topic and be prepared to discuss at the provider meeting.

The Q&A’s received during the Quarterly Provider Meeting will be answered if the question is relative to an agenda item. If not, then the question will not be answered, and the provider should send the question to OCDD-HCBS@la.gov.

**Soft Launch of Assistive Technology for all Waivers: Christy Johnson**

Attendees were told that Assistive Technology (AT) services have been added to all four OCDD waivers. The technology is to help individuals with increased independence. These services were piloted in LGE regions 8 and 10, and OCDD is now moving forward with a soft launch of these services statewide. In preparation for the soft launch, a training will be held for Support Coordination Agencies and Local Governing Entities in late October. After these organizations have been trained, OCDD will give provider agencies information regarding these services.

**NOW IFS Night Rate Increase: Christy Johnson**

The NOW IFS Night Rate has been increased to match the IFS Day rates, including shared services. The rate increase is effective for services delivered beginning midnight (00:00) on 10/1/2024. The rates are as follows:

S5125 UJ $4.63/unit

S5125 UN UJ - $3.20/unit

S5125 UP UJ - $2.71/unit

The NOW night services procedure codes will remain in effect and should be used when documenting the delivery of NOW IFS night services and for billing. A memo was posted on 9/23/24 outlining the rate increase and is available in LaSRS.

**Statewide Incident Management System: Marilee Andrews**

Marilee reviewed the Medicaid billing bump project and provided the following information for CIRs for visits to acute care facilities, emergency rooms, and urgent care centers:

Any incident/action that results in a visit to an acute care facility, emergency room, or urgent care center qualifies as a critical incident and should be reported.

* Acute Care Facility - a hospital where it is expected that the patient will require treatment by licensed health care providers either as an out-patient (less than 24 hours) or as a patient who stays more than 24 hours. This includes psychiatric hospital stays/ admissions.
* Emergency Room - Emergency room or urgent care center

Marilee also asked the providers to review and save this link:[**https://ldh.la.gov/page/critical-incident-reporting**](https://ldh.la.gov/page/critical-incident-reporting)**,** as it contains a number of resources, including a slide deck on Operational Instruction #F-5 / Critical Incident Reporting in SIMS, which answers many questions.

Marilee shared some DSP responsibilities and SC responsibilities with regards to following up on CIRs:

Some DSP responsibilities with regard to following up on CIRs:

* Enter follow-up case notes within six business days after the initial CIR is received from the DSP or the discovery by the SC and as needed until case closure
* Continue to follow-up with DSP, the participant and others as necessary, in order to update the case notes in SIMS until the incident is resolved and the case is closed.

Some SC responsibilities in critical incident reporting:

* Enter follow-up case notes within six business days after the initial critical incident report is received from the DSP or the discovery by the SC and as needed until case closure.

Please review the slide deck on Operational Instruction #F-5 and Operational Instruction #F-5, both of which are located at [**https://ldh.la.gov/page/critical-incident-reporting**](https://ldh.la.gov/page/critical-incident-reporting) for complete DSP and SC responsibilities regarding critical incident reporting

**Path to Employment: Rosemary Morales**

Rosemary explained the new Path to Employment that is being launched on October 1, 2024. This information was previously shared with Support Coordination Executives at their last meeting with OCDD on 9/17/24.

The original Path to Employment questionnaire was designed to facilitate a discussion about employment with individuals. However, the questionnaire was lengthy and resulted in the collection of inaccurate information. The new Path to Employment is only four questions and is designed to identify individuals that work in competitive, integrated employment and those individuals who **want** to work in competitive, integrated employment.

The Path to Employment only has to be answered twice a year (October-December and April–June) and is only for individuals who are 18 and older and have a Supports, ROW, or NOW waiver. The PTE is not required for individuals in Children’s Choice, even if they are 18 or older.

The Path to Employment presentation has been posted with these provider notes. Additional information will be distributed to Support Coordination Agencies to help facilitate training and once the documents are numbered, they will be redistributed to the SCA’s.

**Family as Paid Caregiver: Janae Burr**

Ms. Burr reminded support coordination agencies and providers about the requirements for “Family as Paid Caregiver (FPC) Living with the Beneficiary.

**Support Coordinator (SC) Requirements:**

* Requires SC to perform Best Interest and Self Determination (BI/SD) Review with team at POC meeting **every year**
* Requires completion of “Family as Paid Caregiver” (FPC) Attestation **every year**
* Requires attestation to be entered into LaSRS by SC **every year**

**Provider Requirements:**

* Ensure BI/SD Review has occurred for any beneficiary that has paid caregiver living with them
* Ensure paid caregiver views [slide presentation](https://ldh.la.gov/news/7169) regarding responsibilities
* Ensure paid caregiver completes FPC [Attestation](https://ldh.la.gov/news/7169) and the provider returns it to SC for data entry
* Do not allow paid caregiver to work more than 40 per week with beneficiary

In addition, there is one more requirement. A legally responsible individual (LRI) is defined as:

* Parent of a minor child
* Spouse
* Curator/Tutor (requires a court document that is signed by a judge). This does not include a “power of attorney”.

If a legally responsible individual (LRI) is a paid caregiver for the beneficiary then the following also applies:

* SC must also perform the “extraordinary care” review during the annual POC meeting every year.
* LRI must complete the Family as Paid Caregiver (FPC) [Attestation](https://ldh.la.gov/news/7169) every year.
* SC must enter the FPC Attestation in LaSRS ***IF*** the LRI also lives with the beneficiary. If the LRI does not live with the beneficiary, then the SC does NOT enter the FPC Attestation in LaSRS.