

Operations Work Group

January 29, 2009

2:30 – 4:30

CCPA Office, Rocky Hill

Present:

Judi Jordan, Dan Lyga, Terry Edelstein, Pat Sidley, Mike Russo, Carlotta Grate, John Clemons, Joe Milke, Bill Martin, Greg Messner

Agenda:

1. Status of MOA issue

Judi Jordan will issue a memo for all providers at the start of the contract renewal process describing the modified MOA process and timelines for submitting or renewing MOAs.

2. DCF plans for reprourement

DCF is awaiting further guidance from OPM in order to modify the reprourement schedule or change policies. DCF will provide an update to private providers in the “status column” of the reprourement standards posted on their website. Some reprourements may continue as scheduled, but others will be delayed.

Juvenile Justice reprourement will be delays with delays in Raise the Age implementation. Parent Aide, PEAS, Respite have been “pulled back.” DCF is seeking feedback on foster care models. EMPS is still out to bid.

3. Update on January contract renewal process

OPM had asked state agencies to develop two year contracts, but DCF will be allowed to continue to contract for up to three years.

The Attorney General’s Office is making some changes in the state contract template that will be shared with OPM and the contracting state agencies. OPM has made a commitment to review these changes with the trade associations prior to implementation. Some of the changes relate to TANF “claiming” and related data postings.

Approximately 50% of providers (80 contractors) will be renewing their contracts this cycle.

4. Feedback on budget/ revenue reporting form (distributed 10/23/08)

Judi Jordan reviewed a proposed draft to the DCF “Consolidated Budget Forms and Narrative Instructions revised May 2008” that would require providers to include data about HUSKY, Medicaid and other third party revenue. DCF is hoping to learn more about ways to encourage providers to maximize HUSKY and other billing by analyzing these data.

Discussion items:

- Differences in revenue may relate to case mix
- Definitions of third party revenue?
- Are data easily retrievable?

Judi Jordan will issue a revised set of instructions based on attendee input.

5. The process for filing the 8 month report and budget revisions – review of potentially redundant steps and built in delays

Pat Sidley presented a grid comparing the DCF and DMHAS reporting processes. He and other attendees discussed ideas for simplifying the DCF reporting requirements and timeline.

Discussion items:

- Reporting on individual staff by name is difficult and time consuming/ with turnover, confidentiality and other issues
- It would be simpler to report on individual salaries by position as on the unified cost reports
- Data need to be aggregated anyway
- Reducing reporting would assist providers/ save time

Ms. Jordan noted that providers can list the name of the individual who is in a position at the end of the contract cycle rather than having to name each person who was in the position during the year. This requirement could be clarified in the 8 month and end of year reporting instructions.

Judi Jordan agreed that the reporting requirement could be simplified, for example listing four child care worker positions rather than naming the individuals and agreed to explore implementing this change for the July 1, 2009 contracting cycle.

6. Use of the Operations Work Group as a forum for identifying and addressing funded and unfunded mandates

Attendees discussed the general concept of funded and unfunded mandates such as:

- New requests for data
- Add-ons to current data reporting requirements
- Nursing guidelines
- Med admin system changes
- DMV licensing requirements
- Evidence-based service provision
- Training requirements
- Duplicative reporting, often in different formats, to multiple state agencies
- Impact of multiple reporting requirements and modifications to those requirements having a cumulative impact on providers

The provider associations agreed to consolidate their lists of funded and unfunded mandates to discuss with DCF at the next Operations Work Group meeting.

Greg Messner suggested including provider input when DCF is contemplating contracting and other changes that affect providers.

7. Additional topics and other business

- A. Cash flow issues in FY09 – concern that state’s financial situation will slow payments to providers.

To date DCF is receiving its allotments as scheduled. The 4th quarter’s allotment is due April 1. DCF is running a surplus in the Room and Board account and family support services and while “helping” the state budget with “planned lapses” there should be sufficient cash for the remainder of the year.

- B. Cash flow issues in FY10 – concern that if there is not a budget for FY10, payment for services will be slow, limited to bi-weekly issuance, or greatly delayed until the budget is developed. Providers are experiencing difficulty in accessing lines of credit.

8. Next Meeting: Conference call in February for trade association representatives (Jon to set up the call).

- A. Developing a consolidated list of unfunded mandates from the three associations
- B. Recommending agenda for next meeting

Recorder: Terry Edelstein, CCPA