

Community Services Rate Reimbursement Commission
Maryland Association of Community Services, Columbia Maryland
December 20, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners – Jillian Aldebron (chair), Kia Brown, Jeffrey Richardson, Thomas Sizemore, Timothy Wiens (vice-chair). Consultant – Charles Betley, Michael Nolin.

Proceedings

The meeting of the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission (CSRRC) was called to order at 6 p.m. The proposed agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the October 28, 2011 meeting were approved.

The first item of discussion was the resignation of Commissioner Marshall Jones, which leaves the CSRRC with two vacancies, and any absence of the remaining commissioners would leave the Commission without a quorum. The Chair, Jillian Aldebron, announced that she was recruiting one potential replacement, subject to being officially appointed by the Governor. She asked for suggestions for another potential member to complete the Commission membership.

Vice-Chair Timothy Wiens presented a report of the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) technical advisory group (TAG) meeting, held on December 1, 2011. The DDA's calculation of the SB 663 requirements for determining a weighted average cost structure was among the topics discussed, along with the use of the supports intensity scale (SIS) as a new mechanism for allocating resources to clients of differing needs. The Hilltop Institute technical consultant reported on progress with obtaining data from the DDA on cost reports, wage surveys, and financial statements that will be required when the CSRRC assumes the responsibility for calculating the SB 663 methodology for rate updates. The commissioners agreed upon prioritizing Hilltop's work, by beginning focus on establishing the weighted cost average by examining trends in wage expenditures, financial viability of the providers, and the impacts of regulatory environment on provider performance. Following these priorities would be determining the incentive and disincentives of alternative payment structures, and evaluating potential alternative methodologies.

Chair Jillian Aldebron presented the report of the Mental Health technical advisory group meeting of November 29, 2011. The TAG identified weaknesses in the data collected by the Mental Hygiene Administration that can be used to for developing both the SB 663 Methodology and a potential long-term methodology to better meet legislative requirements to provide incentives for appropriate treatment. The fact that MHA does not collect cost report data, as does the DDA, was noted, although some Commissioners suggested that the diversity of services offered under MHA made a cost report collection instrument more difficult than those used by DDA. The Hilltop Institute reported cooperation from MHA in obtaining wage survey and financial statements that have been collected by the agency.

Other items discussed included implications of the report of consultants who recommended that the current carve-out of mental health services from Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) be replaced with Mental Health services being integrated into MCO contracts. To do so would require statutory change from the Maryland State Assembly, so any such change would take a minimum of two years. Some discussion was held about cost-based alternatives for payment, such as has been conducted under Federal law for payments for services to Federally Qualified Health Centers. At the same time, cost-based reimbursement is disfavored because it diminishes incentives for providers to control costs of care delivery.

Decisions

The Hilltop Institute was assigned priorities for analysis and development of preliminary reports using available data. One preliminary report would be delivered to the next scheduled DD TAG meeting on January 6, 2012, further progress would be reported at the next scheduled full Commission meeting.

Scheduling for future full Commission meetings was approved, with all meetings to be held from 6-8 PM at the MACS conference room.

Dates for future meetings are:

February 15, 2012
April 25, 2012
June 12, 2012
August 14, 2012
September 16, 2012

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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