

Medical Assistance Realignment Stakeholder Conference Call
Friday, December 2, Noon

HealthChoices Rate Setting

Joan Erney reported that OMHSAS has concluded its review for 2006 rate setting. The Counties submitted certified data, child-specific data and add'l info requested and packages would be going out today (Dec 2) for the January rate adjustment. Packages went to CMS as well today. The rate adjustments incorporate new providers expected to enter the MA program as well as rate adjustments for existing providers. DPW will monitor closely this provider list and assumptions included in the rates to assure the expectations are realized moving forward. On average, DPW has seen a 25-30% rate increase for residential providers coming into MA from the OCYF system.

OMAP Provider Enrollment

Yvonne Hess' last day with DPW is today Dec 2nd so there are some staffing changes in behavioral health provider enrollment. While OMAP recruits for a permanent replacement, Dr. Bill Krieger will be coming on board from Harrisburg State Hospital. Tom Artz and Bruce Whiting will also be assisting Bill.

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Fraud and Abuse

There were concerns expressed during our prior call about the emphasis OMAP may be placing on MA providers who may come in thru MA realignment. Jim Hardy reported there are no new efforts in place to go back and "play gotcha on this" [MA realignment]. Increased fraud and abuse efforts are focused in other areas, such as pharmacy.

Performance Measurement

Jeff Bechtel, PeopleStat updated the group on the status of DPW's efforts to develop a quality monitoring tool for this initiative. The goal of this effort is to monitor the impact of MA realignment, measure the effect it had on children's behavioral health services, and determine if it was an appropriate use of DPW resources. The monitoring is for DPW to check itself internally, not to monitor individual providers or counties. Using the attached document, Jeff discussed the Department's proposal to pull together a stakeholder group and develop a few discrete measures. These measures would be piloted in a few counties who volunteered. All agreed to keep the measures simple.

A mtg will be scheduled for early January for stakeholders to determine which measures to use and a roll-out strategy.

Other Issues

A request was made for a copy of the powerpoint presentation Stan Mrozowski gave to the Integrated Children's Services Plan mtg a few weeks ago. This powerpoint will be posted on the DPW Integrated Children's Services Initiative website.