

**Unified Long-Term Care Systems Workgroup
Eligibility Subcommittee
August 2, 2010 - 2:00PM – 3:00PM
Lazarus Building, 50 W. Town Street, 5th Floor**

MEETING NOTES

Update on process recommendations

- Recommendation #51 (*workgroup on eligibility processing*).
 - Rick explained that he would begin to draft a framework regarding this recommendation to support the pre-implementation work.

Update on policy recommendations

- Recommendations #46 (*eliminating the F/F interview requirements for ABD applicants/ recipients*).
 - Rick explained that he would begin to draft a framework regarding this recommendation to support the pre-implementation work.

- Recommendation #54.7 (*Considering judgments as an exemption in the patient liability computation*).
 - The counting of all earned and unearned income is a federal mandate. There is no flexibility in allowing any kind of exemption for judgments. Pete Van Runkle, earlier in the plenary session, expressed concern in the nursing home industry, explaining that the facilities have payment gaps, yet still provide the care based upon the reimbursement of what the individual should be paying. Sandra Park is conducting a final analysis of this issue and will report back.

- Recommendation #72.1 (*expanding Assisted Living program eligibility*)
 - The sub-committee members felt that the concerns connected with this recommendation would be best addressed by the eligibility workgroup implementation in Recommendation 51.

- Recommendation #54.3 (*allowing retroactive Medicaid eligibility*)
 - ODA has no plans to consider this at this time.

- Assisted Living Association recommendations
 - Jean Thompson, of the Ohio Assisted Living Association, earlier in the plenary session, explained that she wanted to subcommittee to address the disposition of the Assisted Living-specific recommendations. In the July meeting, Eric Miller wanted clarification from Carol Ruff, on behalf of the Ohio Assisted Living Association, indicating that she would be willing to rescind the association's recommendations that mirror #46 and #51. Eric is to set up a meeting

with Sandee Ferguson, Hope Roberts to discuss with a tentative plan to follow up with Jean and Carol.

Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) - Jeff Corzine

- Jeff Corzine provided the group with updated PNA materials (revised 7/31/10) that show the possible options to consider, the rationale and whether the option could be considered as a valid recommendation. Eric forwarded this to Beverly Laubert and LaTosha Still for review, and for them as well as Jeff Corzine to consider. Recommendations under active consideration are: 1) Increased oversight of PNA account management; 2) Disregard of cash gifts up to the PNA maximum value; 3) Adjust resource limits to the Consumer Price Index; and 4) Address issues related to the difference in cost of a requested service and a "comparable cost item" supplied by the facility.

- Mike Compton, of the Ohio HealthCare Association, conducted research on whether banks would provide accounts for personal allowance funds with no fee. The general consensus is that banks will provide an account for personal allowance funds with no fee as a type of "loss-leader" to encourage a facility to do other banking business with that bank. The association is reluctant to require by rule that all PNA funds be kept in accounts that do not charge fees for a variety of reasons:
 - Competition among banks varies widely across Ohio and some rural facilities might not be able to arrange for a free account for PNA funds; and
 - Congress has passed a major overhaul of the banking industry and could pass legislation in the future which might change the way banks do business and they might begin to charge fees on all accounts. We would not want to be required by Ohio law or rule to keep PNA funds in "free" accounts if those ceased to exist.

General

- The subcommittee suggested that the group review the disposition of all of the recommendations, even those that may not be able to be implemented in the near future

- Adjourn at 3:00PM