

Agenda

P.A. 100-1024 Mental Health Parity Working Group
September 24, 2021
1:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Locations:

WebEx or join by phone

Call-in Information:

312-535-8110
Code: 177 713 8177

I. Welcome

Erica Weyhenmeyer welcomed staff, members, and guests to the Mental Health Parity Working Group Meeting. Weyhenmeyer explained the Mental Health Parity Working Group created under P.A. 100-1024 and that the group is in charge of creating the formatting and templates for NQTL comparative analysis admissions to the Department of Insurance (DOI) and to Department of HFS.

II. Introductions

Weyhenmeyer asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Members in attendance:

Britton Carlson
Laura Minzer
Lia Daniels
Jud DeLoss
Samantha Olds-Frey
Tina Cortez

Members absent:

Robert Edstrom (Zach Kempel sat in for Robert)
Nancy Wohlart
Cheryl Potts (David Applegate sat in for Cheryl)

Guests in attendance:

Aetna
American Psychiatric Association
BCBS of IL
Centene
EBG Health Care
Great Health
Haymarket Center
Health Alliance Medical Plans
Kennedy Forum
MercyCare HMO
United Healthcare

State Staff present:

Erica Weyhenmeyer (DOI)
Ryan Gillespie (DOI)
Robert Mendonsa (HFS)
Kati Hinshaw (HFS)

III. Minutes

Weyhenmeyer asked members to review the minutes from the past meeting that were attached to the agenda for any edits or revisions.

Samantha Olds-Frey motioned to accept the minutes.

Laura Minzer seconded the motion.

There were no objections from members.

The minutes were approved.

IV. Phase III Implementation

Laura Minzer asked if they could review Phase II. Weyhenmeyer agreed. Minzer stated that several members of the Working Group, KFI, Association of Behavioral Health and the Health and Hospital Association had a discussion earlier this week and laid out proposed edits to Phase II, specifically from their perspective. The goal is to update and align the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) as they did in Phase I, which wasn't done in Phase II. With the Phase II proposed edits in addition to the aligning with the CAA there were some changes. David Shillcutt explained there are 2 overarching buckets of changes which need to be made to Phase II. 1) Essentially cosmetic with one caveat in order to align with the 5-part structure in the CAA. 2) One substantive issue that does come out through this process is that the Federal 5-step analysis is targeting to an analysis based on an assumption that the NQTL is being applied by service type. For example, the Step 2 of the Federal requirements is to identify the factors used to determine the NQTL that they will apply to mental health or substance use disorder benefits and medical or surgical benefits. Therefore, Phase II needs to be revised so that the instructions are geared to a claims level approach rather than a service type of approach that were used for Phase I. The clarity of the instructions is pertinent. Tim Clement explained that caveat needs to be added to differentiate claims and service type. Weyhenmeyer asked if there were steps going forward. Minzer injected that the other members of the working group have to review those suggested changes outlined and need time to do so. Essentially it would be helpful to have some sort of definition around these NQTL types; working through how we define those and then laying those out as part of the instructions as further clarification to the insurers who will be completing these for submission on July 1st. Minzer discussed delay working on Phase III until they receive further Federal guidance which they'll receive later this year or the beginning of 2022. Olds-Frey spoke of the that they can just decide what the consistent definition will be. These are lessons learned as they completed the first phase of the template. There's a better sense of what needs to be done. She suggested they tighten up Phase II and build and improve upon the work they've already done and that's the goal.

V. Next Steps

Weyhenmeyer is going to plan the October agenda as things progress and as they receive updates on Phase II. The next meeting will be on October 22nd at 1:00 pm.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm