

Therapy WorkGroup Minutes
March 17, 2005

Committee Members in Attendance:

Cheryl Freeman, RN – Facilitator-Medicaid representative
Angela Traweek, OT
Julia Washburn, OT
Judy Eddington, SLP
Quinta Cruthis, SLP
Jarrod McClain, RN
Beth Stamp, PT
Cheri Stevenson, SLP
Shelly Wier, SLP

The purpose of this meeting is for the following issues:

*Items for APA process

*Agenda Items for Open-Meeting

Meeting began at 10:05AM with nine committee members in attendance. Cheryl Freeman was the facilitator and Medicaid representative of the meeting secondary to Marilyn Strickland not being in attendance. Cheryl opened the meeting with discussing what items were up for APA. It was discussed and recommended that the list of tests being prepared for promulgation should be updated annually in order to allow for the addition of new tests. It was suggested and agreed upon that there should be two lists, one list (1) of promulgated APA tests and the second (2), a recommended list awaiting promulgation. It was agreed upon that any new tests placed on the secondary list would be accepted by all interested parties (Medicaid, Associations, providers and AFMC) as valid tests for use in qualifying a child for Medicaid reimbursed therapy. The committee agreed to work on a list of what information should be submitted by providers to the committee on newly recommended tests they wish to see added to the APA list. This is to be addressed at future committee meetings. Beth Stamp offered to send a list of names to Jarrod of professionals who could be used as references on newly recommended tests. She indicated that these are professionals who are working on their advanced college educations and do research on the validity and reliability of published tests. The committee agreed that this would be a good resource for locating unbiased testing information to be used in determining validity and reliability of newly published tests.

Cheri Stevenson enquired as to whether the Language Skills Compared to Assessment of Intellectual Capacity algorithm had been placed on the AFMC website. Jarrod responded and indicated that if a pdf. File could be emailed to him that it would be placed on the webpage within the next two weeks. (The pdf file was received and as of today, March 31, 2005, that algorithm has been placed on the AFMC retrospective therapy webpage to be used as reference for all interested parties. The AFMC webpage address is: www.afmc.org).

Cheryl asked for further recommendations for items to be placed into the APA process. Jarrod indicated that when the original Medicaid OT/PT guidelines were promulgated (January 2003), that an accepted school guideline was omitted. The promulgated speech therapy guidelines indicate that the public schools are allowed to do full comprehensive evaluations every three years. The promulgated occupational and physical therapy guidelines only indicate that evaluations must be done annually. No mention was made in the OT/PT guidelines that public school could do their

evaluations every three years as the speech guidelines indicated. Jarrod mentioned that many providers of school therapy are having complications obtaining DMS-640 form from PCP's for school therapy secondary to the PCP expecting a full comprehensive evaluation annually. Cheryl indicated that this would be taken into consideration and discussed with Marilyn Strickland in the near future.

Jarrod mentioned the proposed Early Intervention (EI) guideline revisions for DDS. This issue was addressed by Judy Eddington who indicated that those proposed changes had been submitted and was still under discussion by all interested parties. Future updates to be announced as they develop on this matter.

The committee discussed making a list of information that providers could use for collecting and submitting validity/reliability information on any new tests that were to be recommended for future promulgation. This information would be developed by the committee in future meetings and once developed, listed on the associations and AFMC websites for all interested parties to access. The committee indicated that they felt that there should be wording changes made to the "recommended list of tests". The committee proposed that there should be two lists of tests, one that has been thru the APA process and another for any new tests that have not been thru the APA process. The second list would contain tests that would be accepted by all interested parties as qualifying tests for providers to use in their evaluations and not questioned by reviewers. Cheryl indicated that further discussion by Medicaid would be required and that it would be addressed at future committee meetings.

Cheryl next asked for suggestions for topics to be discussed at the open meeting coming up in May 2005. It was suggested by many of the committee members in attendance that a short summary of the last open meeting held on October 28, 2004 is given. This was agreed upon and shall be done in order to bring everyone who is in attendance at the open meeting up to date on what has been occurring the past SFY with therapy. It was suggested and agreed upon that an agenda would be printed as well and distributed to all in attendance. Clarification of supervision of assistants was suggested and agreed upon by the committee as another area to be addressed. It was also agreed upon to discuss the recommended list of tests that are being prepared for promulgation at this time by Medicaid. The committee began discussing school billing practices. Shelly Wier indicated to the committee that billing training sessions for the schools were being planned for the summer months. Dates for these training sessions are to be announced in the near future on the AFMC and Educational websites for all interested parties. Shelly Wier introduced the subject of IEP changes that the schools and other interested parties are faced with. Shelly indicated that short-term goals were no longer being required on the IEP form. It was discussed whether Medicaid would require that therapists continue to list short-term goals for review purposes. Jarrod indicated that the AFMC review therapists would continue to expect to see them for review. As whether they were listed in the evaluation, as a supplemental/addendum to the evaluation or as part of the progress notes, as long as the short-term goals were noted, they would be accepted. Jarrod indicated to the committee members in attendance that an entire copy of the IEP was no longer required. AFMC requesting page 1, 2, goals and objectives that pertain to the therapy being reviewed and the signature page if applicable. IEP required information updated by AFMC on the Therapy Chart Request Reference Sheet sent quarterly to all providers receiving record request cover letters. Shelly to address this issue at the open meeting and clarify what information will be required for retrospective review for Medicaid secondary to the IEP changes. Another issue to be addressed at the open meeting was the proposed changes to the DDS Early Intervention guidelines. Cheryl did not indicate who on the committee would be addressing this issue at the open meeting. Further clarification will be obtained on the specifics of this matter as they develop. It was suggested that IQ score information should be addressed as well at the meeting secondary to proposed changes being prepared for promulgation by Medicaid. These changes were agreed upon by the committee in past meetings and will change the age requirement for IQ scores from once the child begins Kindergarten to age ten (10). No further discussion was made regarding these proposed changes. It was

suggested that Medicaid discuss the revised DMS-640 form that was on the Official Notice from November 1, 2004. Jarrod indicated that one area to be addressed by AFMC would be a web based review status website. Jarrod indicated that it could possibly be available for providers to use by the late fall of 2005. Jarrod also indicated that the matter of mail and address changes should be another area to be addressed at the open meeting secondary to continued postal problems. Providers continue to indicate that they are not receiving correspondence from AFMC. Jarrod indicated that all was being done to address this issue and that it would be monitored in the future for further complications

Cheryl next addressed when the open meeting would be held and where. The committee was notified that the open meeting would be held on May 5, 2005, at the Blue Flame Room from 10-12noon. Jarrod indicated that this information would be listed on the AFMC website for all interested parties to access. Other committee members indicated that it would be listed on the association's websites as well for their fellow members to access. Cheryl lastly addressed the issue of the next committee meeting. Suggestions were requested by Cheryl as to when to hold the next meeting and it was determined to be July 21, 2005. The July meeting will be held at the Medicaid building in Little Rock on the forth floor as usual from 10-12noon.

It was suggested that the minutes continue to be listed on the association's websites for their members to access. It was suggested by the committee that everyone rotate a turn and type them up for each meeting and then email the minutes to all committee members. Relieving the stress of one committee member being responsible for keeping and typing the minutes for every meeting. The committee agreed upon rotating the minutes and asked for volunteers for starting the rotation. Jarrod agreed to do the minutes from this meeting.

At 11:25AM CST Cheryl Freeman of Medicaid called the meeting to a close.