

THERAPY WORK GROUP MINUTES

September 13, 2006

Committee Members and Guests Present:

Marilyn Strickland- Medicaid

Cheryl Freeman- Medicaid

Jarrold McClain, RN- AFMC

Angela Traweek, OT

Julia Washburn, OT

Judy Eddington, SLP

Beth Stamp, PT

Debbie Ashworth, PT

Shelly Wier, SLP

Kim Jones, SLP

Shelia Gifford- EDS

Sherry Stevenson, SLP

Ruth Castleberry-Governor's Early Intervention Coordination Council

Peggy Starling- Manager Provider Relations for Medicaid Managed Care

Current Therapy Issues Discussed

1. Julia Washburn held a conference call with team members of the field audit unit. This unit is actually in the process of changing its name and will be referred to from here forward as the program integrity unit. Julia states that one of the issues brought up was the statement that members of the program integrity unit had concerns about therapy being performed and documented from the classroom to the therapy area due to safety issues. It is the therapists' opinion that this should be our informed clinical judgment as to what constitutes a safe activity. The reviewers of the program integrity state that all aspects of the therapy program fall under their "watchful eye" and therefore, this is an area of their concern. Other members of the committee have recently undergone review by the program integrity unit and no comments were made concerning the way children are signed in and out or "back to back" therapy as with previous reviews undergone by other committee members. It was felt that there is not continuity between the four teams performing the reviews. Concerns were also brought up to how reviewers look at DDTCS billable core service hours but there no clarification could be provided on this at the time of this meeting. Marilyn Strickland suggested that all four teams of the program integrity unit meet with this workgroup.
2. A sub-committee from this work group has been formed to address continuing speech issues. The members of this committee will be Judy Eddington, Sherry Stevenson, Shelly Weir and Kim Jones. The issues they are presenting targeting are: A) What % of language delay is reading based and when does it become reading therapy? This team discussed that reading is a part of speech but when is reading being used as a modality versus tutoring. B) Recommendations concerning articulation vs. phonological due to Jarrod McClain seeing a lot of a child not qualifying on a traditional articulation test but does on a phonological

test. The guidelines presently say, "if phonological testing is submitted, a traditional articulation test must also be submitted with a standardized score".

C) Continued complaints on reviews being denied due to child not qualifying on the norm-referenced, standardized, age appropriate test but having at least a moderate delay on the criteria test. Need some guidelines on usage of criterion test. D) Using total language scores as separate areas. Need clarification on delay in "2 areas" for language-does this include total language as an area? Speech therapists on the committee expressed concern that the child has to score poorly on the PLS 4 as the total language score doesn't count and the criterion doesn't count. They suggested looking at bringing pragmatics and phonological awareness as separate areas.

3. Discussed agenda items for the open meeting in October.
4. Beth Stamps provided information to the committee that the Physical Therapy Pediatric section is combating the use of the PDMS II, due to the significant populations that it excludes. Therefore, the PDMS I will not be removed from the promulgated therapy list.
5. Mrs. Strickland reports that a proposed rate increase has been requested for therapy providers. It is going through the first of several approvals. The exact amount was not known at this time but she felt she would have something more specific at the time of the open meeting. She reports after the initial approvals it then must be approved by the Governor and the legislators. If passed, it will go into effect July 1st, 2007.
6. Committee members are taking turns typing the minutes from the workgroup meetings. Debbie Ashworth agreed to do the minutes from this meeting.

The meeting was dismissed at 11:30 due to Mrs. Strickland's obligation to attend another meeting.

The following is a list of agenda items that we were unable to discuss today:

1. Increase of evaluation units for speech and occupational therapy.
2. Times in and out need to be documented on evaluation will be added to guidelines.
3. Is documentation a part of evaluation time?
4. Who is to pay for interpreter for foreign speaking, especially over age 3?
5. Co-treatment of therapy services.
6. Percentiles versus standard scores.
7. Definition of "reasonable progress".
8. Stephanie Smith had referred that there is a way to look up if evaluation units are available. How do we do this?
9. Regarding minutes from the July 12th workgroup, it was stated that some providers are still filling out the DMS-640. What is this in reference to? What can the provider put on the form?

The next work group meeting is Wednesday, October 25th. The next open meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31st at the Blue Flame Room. It is located at 400 E. Capitol in Little Rock. It is the same building as the Office of Child Support Enforcement. Providers can park in the lots directly north of the building on 4th street or at the overflow lot at 3rd and Rock. The meeting will be held from 10:00-12:00.

Providers please contact your appropriate representatives for any comments, concerns or questions regarding the previously listed or new therapy topics.