

## Medicaid Update of 12-16-08 for Directors' Conference Call, Jane Reagan

- ❖ **The most current copy of Michigan's Medicaid SBS Program Policy is dated October 1<sup>st</sup>.** Almost every component of the program changed July 1st, so be sure your staff have the most current copy, available from the DCH web page or on John Dickey's MAASE web site at this link: <http://maase.pbwiki.com/Medicaid> He has posted sample forms, the powerpoint presentations on changes (not the ones by PCG), and a couple web links. If you have Medicaid forms or tips you'd like to share, get them to Dr. Dickey.

### **What's New**

- **Shadow claims.** Even though you will not receive reimbursement directly related to claims, you still must work with (pay) your billing company to send claims to the Medicaid agency. This was a requirement of the federal CMS, who is watching the volume intensely. Medicaid Director Reinhart sent a letter to all ISDs last week reminding you they must withhold payments if your claim activity drops.
- **Interim monthly payments** are the reimbursement method for this first year, and they are based on 75% of your 2006-07 Medicaid reimbursement. The CMS is using these payments as leverage to make sure you're sending your shadow claims.
- **Time studies** are the main basis for future payments. Previously there was one time study with 800 statewide 'moments'. Now there are 12,000 moments, a 15-fold increase. We know this has been difficult for your staff to adapt, as each staff can only be in ONE of the four time studies. **Any person doing Medicaid reimbursable services must be placed in a time study.** The staff (pool) lists must also be updated each quarter based on who's doing the work in your districts.
- **Training sessions** for the program have been scheduled for May 2009 all over the State. As far as I know, these will focus on compiling your annual cost reports, so will be targeted for business officials, but I think your Medicaid coordinator should attend. More details on that later.
- **New communication format with Medicaid.** The Medicaid Policy Workgroup has been meeting for almost 5 years, and will be restructured in 2009. It will be smaller, probably meet 4-6 times a year, and likely consist of Supts or Special Ed Directors, focusing on big policy issues. That group will be responsible to share pertinent, essential information to all of you and your staff in the field, for now called "Medicaid implementers group".
- The **Medicaid implementers group** will consist of at least 1 person from every ISD to attend approx. 6 meetings a year in Lansing or via phone. The first meeting was December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am facilitating communications for and between those meetings, so please provide me with names and email addresses of your reps; only six ISDs have no reps yet, so I will be contacting those ISDs this week.
- The link to the **evaluation** for the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> mtg. Many of you did not attend but we still would like you to answer what you can, knowing at the end of the survey it is open-ended, asking for ideas **for future meetings**, agenda items, etc. This evaluation closes on **DECEMBER 18th**; please take a few minutes today and complete this brief **zoomerang evaluation**, found at this link:  
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB228KZWAXSDA>
- **Next Medicaid Implementers meeting is Thursday February 26, 1:30pm to 3:30pm at Ingham ISD, Thorburn Education Center AB. Phone access will be available.**
- **Parental consent** to release information **to bill Medicaid is still required.** Last week after the new FERPA regs were released, emails were flying with the hope that we no longer needed to obtain an annual signature from parents. Sorry to report, that rumor is not true because the IDEA regulations have not changed...BUT, there are efforts to persuade OSEP to change the IDEA regs to no longer conflict with FERPA. More later, I hope!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or issues you need addressed. [ReaganJ@michigan.gov](mailto:ReaganJ@michigan.gov) OR 517-335-2250