

THE EXCELLENCE NETWORK



Meeting Minutes

10/20/23

- **Old Business/Update**

- **Med. Admin. 1 in-person training** – Mon. & Tues, 11/13 & 14- at LCBDD office
 - Link to register: <http://reg.planetreg.com/E72872141243584>
- **First Aid/CPR class**- planning to offer a class (w/ 10 slots) in the beginning of December. Will circulate sign-up as soon as details are finalized.

- **New Business**

- **Medicaid Rate increases:** THANKS to Scott Marks from OPRA! (Scott's presentation slides are attached to the email.) Remember, LCBDD will pay 50% of your first year's membership in professional organizations.
 - A few random details that aren't readily apparent:
 - For Individual Employment Supports (vocational services) the full rate increase starts 1/1/24 (w/ no increase in July).
 - ALL components of the HPC rate are increasing- not just the wage component. This includes things like admin. costs and manager's wages.
 - The wage component for ADS & Voc. Hab. services started out lower than for HPC services, so a 38% increase is slightly less than the headline \$18/hr. & \$19/hr. targets.

- **Miscellaneous**

- **Suggestions for other useful presenters?**
 - Maybe someone from Nisonger Center to talk about services for dually-diagnosed folks? (Please let me know if that would be helpful.)
 - Any other ideas?

**Next Mtg: 10:00, Friday, November 17th
at LCBDD office**

Implementing HB33

Scott Marks, MSW

Vice President

Ohio Provider Resource Association

1. When was the budget signed?

Governor Mike DeWine signed the budget on July 3rd, 2023. The budget impacts funding for state fiscal years 2024 and 2025 (state fiscal years start on July 1st and end on June 30th).

2. How does increased budget funding impact the service I provider?



3. What rates/services will receive increases?

a. Services provided in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)

b. *Certain Home and Community-Based Waiver Services:*

Residential Services

Homemaker/Personal Care and Participant-Directed Homemaker/Personal Care;
On-Site/On-Call;
Remote Support Services;
Respite Services;
Shared Living; and
Transportation

Day Services

Adult Day Support
Vocational Habilitation
Career Planning
Individual and Group Employment Support
Non-Medical Transportation
Self-Directed Transportation

7. How much additional money did the General Assembly allocate to the system to support increased rates and wages?

Service	TOTAL INCREASE for SFY 24	TOTAL INCREASE for SFY 25
Intermediate Care Facility	\$52million	\$80million
Waiver Services	\$429million	\$857million

4. How does the additional funding from the budget get to providers?

- In the above HCBS waiver services, the reimbursement rate for each unit of delivered service will increase. Reimbursement rates for each service is different and can be found in the appendices of the service rule.
- For ICFs, each ICF will receive an add-on based on a set percentage of their previous year's direct care cost center. For state fiscal year 2024 (7/1/23-6/30/24), this percentage is 13.55%. In state fiscal year 2025 (7/1/24-6/30/25), the percentage is 20.81%.
(Both subject to revision until the bill is signed by the Governor)

Waiver Rates

- Full Rate Tables found here [https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-under-development/Rule Updates](https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-under-development/Rule_Updates)
- Rates increase by 30% on 1/1/24 and then another 8% on 7/1/24 for an overall rate increase of 38%.
- Integrated Employment Supports full increase to OOD Shift Differential rate on 1/1/24.

12. What are some different ways providers may use the funding to increase compensation? This is a list of common ways providers may increase compensation. Providers may implement one or more of these strategies. There are other appropriate ways providers may increase compensation that are not listed here.

- a. Providers may offer a percentage increase or a specific dollar amount increase on wages
- b. Providers may increase wages for DSPs and Frontline Supervisors who hold certain certifications or other specialized training
- c. Providers may increase wages for DSPs and Frontline Supervisors who work less-desirable shifts such as overnight or weekends
- d. Providers may increase wages for DSPs and Frontline Supervisors who work with clients with more complex personal care, medical, and/or behavioral support needs

19. My agency is paying retention bonuses funded by the county board. Will these bonuses continue?

No. The money from the county boards that fund the retention bonus is now being directed to HCBS waiver reimbursement rates. This is meant to help increase wages for DSP and Frontline Supervisors providing waiver services. Some providers may still offer retention bonuses but they will not be a part of the formal program paid for by the county board.

Expectations

- The legislators who voted for this investment and the county boards who contributed to the increased rates expect the average wage for front-line professionals/DSPs to increase across the state.
- In the above mentioned waiver **services**, the legislature appropriated funding to support a statewide average DSP wage to be at \$18/hour starting 1/1/24 and then appropriated funding to support a statewide average of \$19/hour starting on 7/1/24.
- In **Intermediate Care Facilities**, the legislature appropriated funding to support a statewide average DSP wage of \$17/hour on 7/1/23 and then appropriated funding to support a statewide average DSP wage \$18/hour on 7/1/24.

21. What does statewide average DSP wage mean?

All Agencies submit to DODD information on hours worked providing direct care and wages earned for providing those direct care hours. DODD compiles all the responses and calculates the average wage across the entire state. Statewide average does not mean every agency will have an average wage that corresponds with the amounts listed in question 19. Statewide average looks at all DSPs providing direct care in either the waiver or ICF program across the state and the wages earned providing that direct care.

22. How will the state monitor the statewide average wage?

There are two mechanisms currently in place to monitor front-line professional/DSP wages.

- Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) providers are required to complete a DODD-administered wage verification survey. This was developed based on a promise to the state legislature during the fiscal year 2020/2021 budget process.
 - Currently providers of Day, Vocational, Employment, and Transportation services are not required to complete the wage verification survey, but we believe it will become a requirement in 2024.
- ICFs cost reports provides the data needed to show staff compensation in the ICF program.