

## IDD Committee Meeting to Discuss American Rescue Plan

Wednesday, June 23, 2012 • 10:00 am–11:30 am

Webcast

***Instructions for connecting to the webcast will be sent out the day before the meeting.  
This meeting will be recorded.***

### **Welcome and Purpose of Meeting:**

- Department of Human Services submitted Pennsylvania's proposed spending plan for the temporary 10% increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for home and community-based services funded through Medicaid in the American Rescue Plan Act.
- States must reinvest the federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to enhance, expand, or strengthen home and community-based services under the Medicaid program.
- Pennsylvania's Medicaid home and community-based service systems provide care and vital services for people with disabilities, mental illnesses, and substance abuse disorders, and seniors and children with early intervention needs as well as complex medical needs.
- Public Comment will be accepted through Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

### **Review of PA State Spending Plan Narrative — American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:**

(Items of particular interest to IDD services are highlighted)

#### **Increased Access to HCBS**

- Fund a medical home program to focus on the comprehensive coordination of care for children with complex medical conditions.
- Provide financial support to adult daily living providers to make physical, operational, or other changes to ensure services are delivered safely during the reopening of day centers.
- Strengthen county infrastructure by providing funding to expand county staffing to accommodate growth in home and community-based waiver programs.

#### **HCBS Provider Payment Rate and Benefit Enhancements**

- Enhance quality of care by funding a nurse's ability to shadow the current nurse for private duty nursing cases.
- Support provider workforce expansion with funding to issue sign-on and retention bonuses for nurses, direct care workers, and other home and community-based service providers.
- Incentivize the use of value-based purchasing initiatives that reduce missed shifts to strengthen nursing services.
- Increase rates for 0–3 early intervention providers.

- Increase payment rates for direct care workers in the Community HealthChoices and Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) waivers.
- Increase rates for the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program.
- Refresh data for Office of Developmental Programs' services and adjust rates if necessary.
- Purchase consultation for the development and implementation of selective contracting and alternative contract methods.
- Increase provider rates to support state standards for the facilitation of staff training, education, and recruitment based on American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

### **Supplies and Equipment**

- Reimburse early intervention providers for expenses and supplies necessary to safely re-engage in-person visits.
- Fund the purchase of personal protective equipment and testing supplies for HCBS providers.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness of non-residential HCBS residents through provision of emergency preparedness kits.

### **Work Force Support**

- Create an online education and training portal for shift care nursing to strengthen supports to nursing professionals.
- Enhance shift nursing services through co-training hubs for families and nurses to train together on complex cases.
- Develop a medical home learning network to expand communications and supports to providers serving children with medical complexities.
- Enhance quality of service provision for individuals with intellectual disabilities/autism, provider training, and credentialing.
- Expand current training initiatives to include trauma-informed care, wellness, and other self-directed trainings that enhance service delivery.
- Expand the workforce with student loan forgiveness programs to recruit a diversified workforce into employment in **mental/behavioral health and substance use disorder fields of work.**

### **Caregiver Support**

- Develop a registry of direct care workers that allows participants to locate, review and contact direct care workers who will best meet their care needs.
- Provide respite and family support services to those on waiting lists for Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Services.

### **Support to Improve Functional Capabilities of Persons with Disabilities**

- Purchase remote support technology for HCBS providers to enhance transparency and quality assurance in service delivery.
- Provide funding for assistive and remote support technology to enhance service delivery.
- Enhance training on infection control practices.
- Purchase electronic incident detection reporting systems and dashboards to enhance HCBS monitoring.
- Enhance HCBS by improving technology for support coordination organizations.

- Accelerate the adoption of technology by purchasing a consultant to advise agencies seeking to adopt remote supports and other technology solutions for individuals receiving HCBS.
- Enhance transitions into the community by incentivizing managed care organizations to meet nursing home transition goals.
- Purchase housing adaptations for those transitioning from institutional or congregate settings.
- Expand consolidated waiver capacity to transfer additional individuals from facility care.

### **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services**

- Establish residential pediatric recovery centers that treat infants born substance-exposed and provide supports to their caregiver.
- Support telehealth services with funding for providers to purchase equipment and training supports to enhance its usage.
- Provide for technical assistance to implement assisted outpatient therapy for enhanced outpatient treatment for individuals in the civil court system who experience serious mental illness.
- Support the reopening and administration of virtual drop-in centers used to provide a non-clinical support setting for persons in mental health and substance use disorder recovery.
- Fund the administration and delivery of mental health counseling and support groups for frontline pandemic workers.
- Employ additional student assistance program liaisons to assist in identifying key behavioral health issues in school-aged children.
- Fund scholarships to expand the number of certified peer specialists in Pennsylvania to ensure a strong workforce in mental health service settings.

### **Support State HCBS Capacity Building and LTSS Rebalancing Reform**

- Incentivize completion of care plans to improve care coordination and care management activities.
- Provide for enhanced training for private duty nurses to staff cases for children who have complex medical conditions as well as significant behavioral health needs.
- Invest in technology to enhance care coordination for individuals receiving private duty nursing services by connecting home health agencies with Pennsylvania's Patient Provider Network.
- Introduce the use of electronic health records by state hospitals and HCBS facilities and ensure they are interoperable with the Health Information Exchange.

### **Enhance the Comprehensive Training Program for Direct Care Workers to Bolster the Quality of Services for Participants**

- Issue one-time grants to HCBS providers that have innovative ideas that will address social determinants of health.

**Comments from Members will be utilized to develop RCPA's response.**