



Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/3/20

Topic: WNY 820 Work Group

Phone Conference Attendees: Lori Kicinski, Mallory Bryant, Cheryl Krouse, Beth White, Kelly Hansen

Western Region Identified 3 Key Issues @ Albany Co- Chairs Meeting on 10/4/19

1. *Interruption of client's MMC status (from State MA to County MA) upon admission to 820 Stabilization or Rehab program*

This is having an impact with managed Medicaid clients upon admission to 820 beds. When admitted, if the client was enrolled in managed care through the State exchange, their managed care case is closed and then reopened as a County enrolled managed Medicaid case. They are initially enrolled in fee for service Medicaid then transitioned into county MMC – this is the problem as FFS Medicaid does not cover 820 services. This results in a coverage gap that prevents the provider from being able to bill managed care for the stabilization and rehabilitation elements of care during the period of time it takes to reopen the case, sometimes amounting to as much as 45 days of non-reimbursed care.

2. *Review OTDA requirement for 3rd party assessment when client is referred to higher level of care.*

Difficulties of clients who have just been admitted to 820's having to have a third party assessment to justify their placement even though they have already had a LOCADTR determine the placement in that level of care.

3. *Request for support to expand counties' capacity to use video interviews for Public Assistance eligibility when admitted to 820 stabilization programs.*

On site video conferencing for the Public Assistance interview. Erie County currently has a pilot project under way. Under the traditional process, it can take 4-7 hours for the interviews at DSS but using video technology at the 820 site with 820 staff in attendance, it can be completed in under an hour. Clients report feeling more comfortable being supported by the 820 staff during this process. ZOOM and SKYPE interviews being used in the pilot project are compliant with current NYS telemedicine regulations.

Current Updates:

Mallory

- **Fingerprint Requirement has been lifted** thus allowing more organizations to participate in Skype interviews. She forwarded a letter to the group, that she received from OTDA on 1/13/20: *“This General Information System (GIS) is a follow-up to previously released GIS 19 TA/DC 052 to inform social services districts (districts) that effective January 15, 2020 districts are prohibited from using the Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS) to finger image applicants and recipients for any purpose under Public Assistance (PA). Districts must adjust their procedures to ensure that PA applicants and recipients are not required to be finger imaged as part of the process of obtaining or retaining eligibility for PA. Effective January 15, 2020, all PA AFIS Plans of Operation submitted by any and all districts will be null and void. Districts should remove the finger image scanners from the work stations, secure them, and await further instructions from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Effective January 15, 2020, districts must continue to use AFIS to capture the photograph and signature of PA applicants/recipients to whom payment is made. The photograph and signature captured in AFIS will appear on their Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC).”*
- Mallory reported her organization had a 2019 Year End Financial loss of \$1.4 million (approximately 9,200 bed days unpaid) as FFS Medicaid does not cover 820 services. Mallory will check to see if this “all comes out in the financial wash” at the end of the year and report back to the group. Mallory also reported that sometimes DSS workers give clients a new Medicaid number when switching to FFS.

Beth

- Raised the point that OASAS has continually pushed back when confronted by organizations claiming to have lost revenue due to the 820 issues, claiming they have “made it all right.” NYC has the volume to cover this but our area does not.

Lori

- We are awaiting a letter from Pat Lincourt in which OASAS will be addressing all of the above issues with OTDA. Lori is hopeful that it will be positive in nature and streamline the issues identified at the Co- Chairs meeting on October 4, 2019. She will follow up with the group once it’s received.

Kelly

- Regarding the FFS Medicaid issue- she questioned as to whether there is a problem with Medicaid temp assistance edit switch, or an error on the TA side when case is opened with FFS. FFS being the problem essentially.