

Partners for Employment

Statewide Employment Collaborative (SEC)

Meeting Minutes

12/04/19 | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

In attendance: 14 people- Mandy's Farm, DDS, Life Roots, ENMRSH, Adelante, Corry Consulting, UNM/CDD/PFE, Employer, UNM/CDD, DVR

Following are the notes related to the DD Waiver Renewal discussion:

Waiver Renewal Updates:

DDS attended the SEC to obtain more comments/feedback regarding recommendations for the DD Waiver renewal content. Numerous meetings with stakeholder groups have been held throughout the state to gather further input/suggestions on the process and proposed changes.

- The SEC was asked to help provide feedback on the pros/cons/unintended consequences of these topics. This feedback will be conveyed to the Steering Committee for this project and eventually the ACQ. The following was discussed:
 - Upon reviewing the suggested changes to the waiver renewal content, some of the SEC members discussed how they felt that the monthly CIE rate makes it easier to plan and budget. There is increased flexibility if someone needs more hours quickly.
 - Other people supported the idea of changing to an hourly rate instead of the monthly rate because they work with people less than 4 hours a month and therefore can't be paid for this time. There would also be increased accountability.
 - Some members felt that guidelines for supervision levels/service coordinator tasks tend to be unfunded, but having a monthly rate helps to cover those costs and pay overhead expenses.
 - Some people like the 15-minute units to really capture the amount of work that goes into initializing and maintaining the job coaching.
 - It was discussed that the rate of 30 hours a month in general is not enough time to cover job coaching (for either DVR or DDS).
 - Getting more buy-in from case managers and guardians may help with ensuring that job coaches are able to properly fade when the individual seems ready. (It was suggested that Case Managers attend the SEC as well.)
- Moving towards certification of employment providers in either ACRE or CESP was discussed.

- SEC members discussed how it may be more beneficial to have a payment structure that incentivizes getting the credentials rather than making it mandatory. A tiered system (paying a higher rate to certified staff) was supported by all.
 - A similar non-monetary incentive system to promote participation could be beneficial (ex. free registration to an APSE conference).
- Members described how they saw the value in receiving additional training/professional credentials, but that it was a hardship on their agencies to have staff away from their positions for long periods of time to complete training/credential requirements
 - It was suggested that perhaps finding a training program that does not take up as much time as the training program currently used to obtain an ACRE/CESP would help lessen the burden on agencies.
 - Job coaches seem to be the most difficult group to allow time away from their position for training due to staffing shortages.
- What will be the consequences if people are not certified?
- Redefining “Job Aide” for DDSD services
 - Support for broadening what this category can be used for (definition) in regard to home/work /ADL support and adding to the billing codes that can be used.
- CCS-IBS is going away- not too many people utilize it (~100) and people can use other categories/methods to cover the support that CCS-IBS offers.
- Also discussed the possibility of improving transportation options/reimbursements and increasing the usage of AT to help alleviate the reliance on 1:1 supports that is often favored by support teams but can very intrusive for individuals receiving services.