

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

Hello Everyone,

During the past several months we have been working to develop new rate proposals for day and employment services. Reviewing and considering new rates is always challenging and often controversial because when new models are developed, some rates usually increase and others usually decrease based on the data and factors that are used to build the rate.

This specific rate development effort was initiated for two reasons. First, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) informed us that they had very serious concerns with how we were paying for Job Coaching. Since then, CMS has softened their concern, but we still had issues we needed to address and our commitment to revise and resubmit these rates in a future amendment still stands. Second, feedback we received from providers when we implemented these rates on September 1, 2014 raised serious concerns about the rates based on the timeframe under which cost data was collected to develop the rates.

With this effort, the budget pressures on all parts of the DD system had to be considered and direction was given that the overall fiscal impact of the new rates needed to fall within our current budget for these services. To be clear, we are not using this effort to reduce overall funding for day and employment services.

Stephen Pawlowski and Tina Brezenski with Burns & Associates, were here earlier this month to meet with the advisory group that was established to assist with this rate development effort. In that meeting, we went through each of the proposed rate models. Burns & Associates also hosted a

webinar for those that wanted to hear more detail on the proposed rate models. Information on the proposed rates and a link to the recorded webinar can be found here:

<http://www.burnshealthpolicy.com/ODDSRates/>.

We are also planning to have two public comment periods to collect input, consider feedback and revise rates. The first will be an Office of Developmental Disabilities Services comment period that started earlier this month and is scheduled to end today, November 13, 2015. Comments can be submitted to this email address ODDSRates@burnshealthpolicy.com through the end of the day. We will review and consider them all. After we have reviewed that feedback and adjusted rates as appropriate, we will also have a full 30-day comment period, as required by CMS before we submit the amendments to the waivers.

Since we initiated this effort, a lot has occurred and I thought it would be helpful to take a minute and review all that has happened during the past several months and what we have to consider as we move forward.

A Policy Option Package (POP 111) was developed in late 2013 for the 15-17 budget process. That POP requested a 4 percent provider increase, for many services, including what was then SE54. At that point, SE54 was a bundled daily rate that included what has now been 'unbundled' and includes these services:

- Job Coaching – Initial
- Job Coaching – On Going
- Small Group Employment
- Employment Path – Facility
- Employment Path – Community
- Day Support Activity– Facility
- Day Support Activity – Community

The Oregon Legislature passed the 2015 - 2017 budget with the funding for this POP and so we are preparing to implement that 4 percent rate increase with rates developed as part of prior efforts for the services listed above, effective January 1, 2016. The Legislature also added a budget note directing provider agencies to increase Direct Support Professional wages

and/or benefits by 4 percent during the biennium. We are keeping this in mind as we consider public comment and decide what new service rate models to include in the Support Services and Comp waiver amendments.

We included all of employment service rates and at the Day Support Activity rates in this study. Early on we were asked if we would implement all of these rates at one time. Our response at that time was that we would consider feedback and information on the rate models as we moved forward and decide on the timing for implementation based on our budget situation and stakeholder feedback. We are still looking at this and have not made any firm decisions at this time and are asking for input on this issue.

Your feedback and comments are important.

Transmittals for the weeks of Nov. 2 and Nov. 9

Information Memoranda on SPPC PSWs payment
Action Request on Version C ANA and CNA – Enhanced and Exceptional

To read all the transmittals:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/transmit.htm>.

Thank you for all of your hard work,

Lilia

Lilia Teninty

Director of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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