

**Ability to Pay Workgroup
Report for March 9, 2000 VICC Meeting**

The VICC Ability to Pay (ATP) Workgroup has been encouraged and glad to see progress in seeking solutions to the problems of fees!

The CQI Workgroup was formed, including participants from the VICC ATP Workgroup, EIIMT, providers and administrators. The mission of the CQI Workgroup is to make recommendations to help the Department meet the goal set by Commissioner Kellogg in his testimony to the HJR Early Intervention Subcommittee of the General Assembly: to “develop and implement consistent procedures for determining reasonable family fees across all public and private early intervention providers (interagency) that assure reasonable fees and access to care...” Four sub-groups of the CQI Workgroup have been formed to examine particular recommendations from the Commissioner’s testimony. The subgroups have met to explore information and possible recommendations concerning 1)exploring the use of a statewide sliding fee scale, 2)developing consistent procedures for determining family fees (e.g. appeals process), 3)determining which Part C services must be consistently charged, and 4)analyzing the application of insurance regulations to a statewide sliding fee scale. The fiscal impact of creating a less burdensome fee scale will be considered throughout this process, and specific data is being sought to help understand the scope of the financial changes for the system of services.

The VICC ATP Workgroup was asked to appoint two members to the CQI Workgroup; they are Geri Pratt (for the private provider seat) and Carmen Sanchez. At the first meeting of the expanded CQI Workgroup, participants approved one additional seat for the ATP Workgroup, to increase direct service provider representation. Patti Seklemian volunteered for that position, and was approved at our meeting in mid-February. Other members of the VICC ATP Workgroup are participating in the CQI Workgroup, including family members appointed by The Arc (Wanda Pruett and I) and EIIMT members (Liz Hutton and Glen Slonneger).

The VICC ATP Workgroup met once during the past quarter. The original meeting date was canceled due to snow. The rescheduled meeting was sparsely attended, so additional business is being conducted by e-mail and telephone. We discussed the need for a VICC member to co-chair the workgroup, and Glen Slonneger graciously volunteered. The other major business item is determining if the VICC ATP Workgroup should continue (and if so, for what purpose) or disband. More information about the perspectives of workgroup members on that issue will be available for the VICC’s consideration at the upcoming meeting.

Submitted by
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