

Agenda

P.A. 100-1024 Mental Health Parity Working Group
March 19, 2021
11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Locations:
WebEx or join by phone

Call-in Information:
1-312-535-8110
Code: 177 821 6829

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Minutes
- IV. Finalize Phase II-Implementation/ Templates/ Instructions.
- V. Agency Implementation Discussion Cont.
- VI. Next Steps
- VII. Adjourn

Minutes

P.A. 100-1024 Mental Health Parity Working Group
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1-312-535-8110
Code: 133 425 5617

Welcome

Kate Morthland welcomed staff, members, and guests to the Mental Health Parity Working Group Meeting. Morthland thanked all parties for making themselves available and providing critical expertise regarding substance use and mental health parity. Morthland went over guidelines while moving forward on a technological platform.

Introductions

Morthland asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Members in Attendance:

Britton Carlson
Tina Cortez
Robert Edstrom
Nancy Wohlhart
Laura Minzer
Lia Daniels
Gerald DeLoss
Cheryl Potts

Members Absent:
Samantha Olds-Frey

Morthland informed Working Group members that Aaron Winters & Gregory Lee have left their positions; replacement work is in process.

Guests in attendance:
Aetna
BCBS of IL
Cigna
Epstein Beck Green
Health Alliance
Humana
Kennedy Forum
Quartz Health Plan
Shaddock and Associates
United Healthcare

VIII. Minutes

Morthland asked members to review the minutes from the past meeting in attached to the agenda for any edits or revisions.

Laura Minzer motioned to approve the minutes.

Lia Daniels seconded the motion.

There were no objections from members.

The minutes were approved.

IX. Phase II-Implementation/ Templates/ Instructions.

Morthland mentioned at the last meeting that the group was prepared to discuss the next Implementation phase. The group must address the template in addition to its corresponding Instructions. Morthland mentioned that materials were posted to the website.

Minzer explained the materials presented. Phase II and III are now collapsed into one phase. The Group spent a lot of time developing a template on phase I. Phase II and III is mostly a copy and paste product. The instructions are the areas that need discussion. Industry had the opportunity to talk to KFI about the templates prior to this meeting.

David Shollcutt explained that many NQTLs are built off the first phase. Shollcutt presented the response materials. The instructions and the general concepts are very

much the same as the concepts in phase I. This phase has benefit exclusions in addition to phase I. However, the general structure adheres to the phase the Group completed.

David Applegate stated that he appreciates the plan's effort. KFI provided comments that are not finalized now. KFI will finalize by March.

Minzer agreed to have more discussions on suggestions and agreed that March is a good deadline to finalize.

X. Agency Implementation Discussion

Morthland presented that as mentioned on previous calls, in the law the language states that "insurers shall make available, in advance of the plan year, to the Department of Insurance, or, with respect to medical assistance, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services information required in section C through E. Information should be made available on a publicly available website whose web address is prominently displayed in plan and managed care organization informational and marketing materials.

As written, the information should be made available on a public website, and nothing else. There is no further requirement or analysis written in the law. If there is further analysis or comparison research that this Working Group wants or requires, there needs to be legislation introduced explaining what that extra step looks like, in addition to an appropriation to ensure that the Departments have the funding to properly complete the work. Morthland explained that DOI would be happy to look at drafts of legislation if that is the route the Working Group would like to proceed in. However, for the collection of information to be collected by the Department in June, there is no additional steps the Departments must take besides making sure the information is posted to a public website.

DOI suggested writing up suggestions and providing them to the Departments. DOI can work with the Group with legislation and can circle back on what is feasible from a department standpoint.

Morthland mentioned that the digestible information needs to be effective.

Applegate asked for clarification that the Department finds that this needs a legislative change.

Morthland mentioned that in previous conversations with KFI, Morthland suggested a legislative change. In addition, an appropriation would ensure that we are able to analyze properly. As written, there is nothing in statute, which is why the Departments are discussing this matter.

Minzer mentioned that she would like to be a part of a follow up conversation with implementation. It is important that the Department have a rule to ensure compliance and a digestible way for consumers.

David Lloyd mentioned that all parties assumed that the Department would analyze. Lloyd mentioned that the Department doesn't need additional powers. Mental health is important because of COVID-19.

Morthland agreed. Morthland stated that she does not negate the importance of mental health parity in any way. DOI agrees that mental health is critical. Morthland explained that currently there are no parameters of what to analyze. The bill was passed in a democratic way. Therefore, for analysis purposes, The Departments should hear input of the Group.

Jud DeLoss mentioned that he recalls that the thought process that the brunt of the work was to fall upon the plans, and that material would be given to the Departments and the Departments would post the material.

Robert Mendonsa of HFS mentioned that the Working Group assumed there are resources to do this today. Robert mentioned that the Group could be clearer in statute on what and how the materials are analyzed.

Morthland Agreed. DOI and HFS are willing and ready to work with the Group to set up some parameters.

Applegate asked that we come back to this for the next meeting.

Daniels asked if there is guidance from the Department, the Working Group would like to see that draft language.

Morthland mentioned that while the Departments stand ready to look over any legislation and work with the Group, the parameters should be set by the experts.

Tim Clement stated that States haven't requested this guidance.

Erica Weyhenmeyer of DOI mentioned that we do need a conversation regarding logistics. The Departments don't have the expertise to do the full analysis. The Departments would need outside help.

Ryan Gillespie of DOI agreed with Erica that this is complex information. There is knowledge that is not easily trainable to our staff.

Mendonsa stated capacity concerns.

Applegate mentioned that we should have a conversation off line. Applegate mentioned use of the Parity Advancement Fund.

XI. Scope of Issuers Implementation Discussion

Morthland explained that the Working Group needs to determine the scope of issuers to give information. Meaning, what is the scope we are working with for data collection. What should be included to ensure that we have enough data to make this a fruitful venture and to ensure we collect the correct percentage of individuals.

Minzer explained that scope should be at the issuer level. This falls in line with federal law.

Applegate and Clement Agreed.

Minzer motioned that the scope of implementation applies at the issuer level, meaning entities that are licensed in the state that provides coverage of accident and health insurance.

Lia seconded.

Motion passes.

XII. Next Steps

Next Steps are as follows:

Additional agency implementation discussions

March Meeting is the deadline for finalized comments for phase II.

XIII. Adjourn

Minzer motioned to adjourn.

Potts seconded the motion

There were no objections.

Motion passed.

Meeting ended at 11:48 AM.