

# CCT Monthly Roundtable | MINUTES

Meeting Hours: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CCT  
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CCA ALW

Date: 1/16/2018

Conference Phone Line – **PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER**

\*Line Phone Number: (877) 950-3591

\*Participant Code: 1471128

## **Standing Updates:**

**[2:00 – 2:10 pm]**

- Review of Minutes/Action Items
  - None
- Forms Submission
  - ISCD would like to remind LOs that they are required to utilize current forms posted on website. LOs are also required to use current consolidated Assessment tool provided by ISCD. The current revision date of the CCT Assessment Tool is 6-1-2016.
- Policy/Guidance Letters
  - None
- Transition Counts
  - We have completed 3,629 transitions to date.
  - As a reminder, this is our final year for funding transitions through the CCT program because the grant officially expires September 30, 2020. Any transition not completed by the end of this year, December 31, 2018, will not be funded through CCT. This will allow us one year of both transition services and then time for our close-out activities.
- Housing/811
  - **Urshella Starr (DHCS):** We have awarded almost all of the money allocated to Round I. We have two applications that are currently pending. Once awarded, these two projects will exhaust Round I funds of \$11 million. Round II dollars are still available. The total funding for Round II is also \$11 million. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am also available to assist any interested housing developers.

## **Topics:**

**[2:10 – 3:00 pm]**

### 1. Staffing Updates

- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** We want to give you an update on staffing changes that have occurred recently here at DHCS. Angelina Azevedo has been appointed as the manager over the Home and Community-Based Services Operations Unit. The HCBS Operations unit is responsible for the program operations of CCT and other Home and Community-Based Services programs so you will likely have

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some interaction with her. While I am still operating as Project Director for the CCT program, I am no longer in a management position and am now working as a Health Program Specialist for the HCBS section. I will continue to support all HCBS programs including operations. We also are pleased to announce the addition of Rudy Acosta as Section Chief for the HCBS Section. He was unable to join us today as he is taking a couple of weeks off for paternity leave.

- We are sad to announce that our Nursing Supervisor Holly Kim has retired from state service, effective January 12. We also lost an additional 4 of our reviewing nurses from the LA office who have left the department. With these staff changes in mind it's important now more than ever to remember that all correspondence related to the CCT program should come through the CCT inbox so that it can be routed to the correct staff person and ensure that your requests are not overlooked. Are there any questions about our staffing update?
- **Julie (HHCM):** Does that mean our TARs are going to get slowed down again for approval?
- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** We are watching the TAR workloads and making sure that all TARs are reviewed as quickly as possible.

## 2. Empower Care Act – S.2227

- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** Senators Maria Cantwell of Washington and Rob Portman of Ohio, introduced the Ensuring Medicaid Provides Opportunities for Widespread Equity, Resources and Care Act, also known as the EMPOWER Care Act on December 18, 2017. The EMPOWER Care Act aims to renew and expand the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.
- Cantwell and Portman's bill would provide the MFP program \$450 million for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.
- The bill also proposes to change the eligibility criteria for the program from 90 days in an institutional setting to 60 days.
- We wanted to make you aware that this piece of legislation was introduced in Congress last month in case you wanted to lend your advocacy support for the bill. It's currently being reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee. We'll continue to track the progress of the bill and provide you updates.

## 3. Home Health Rate Increase

- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** The Governor's budget included a \$64.5 million allocation for a 50 percent rate increase for home health providers that provide medically necessary in-home services to children and adults in the fee-for-service system or through home and community-based services waivers.
- These rate increases will be effective July 1, 2018, pending approval of federal financial participation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- We felt this was important information to share with our CCT providers as you often connect your consumers to home health services and home and community-based services waivers.

## 4. Assisted Living Waiver Update

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- The Governor's budget released on January 10, 2018 includes funding to add an additional 2,000 slots to the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) starting June 1, 2018. This funding is contingent upon legislative approval and will also require DHCS to prepare an amendment to the Assisted Living Waiver and submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval.
- Thank you all for your advocacy and support of this program. We are excited about the potential to serve additional Medi-Cal beneficiaries through the ALW. As we move forward, we are committed to keeping all of our program partners updated on the status of the program.
- **Craig Michayluk (Innjerjoy):** In this update, would you consider adding more waiver slots in different counties or just increasing the existing counties waiver count?
- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** The approved funding is to increase the number of slots available in the existing 15 counties.
- **Jonathan (Libertana):** Would we be keeping the one-to-one ratio of the SNF-to-community transition once the 2,000 slots are added? Or will it just be off the waiting list?
- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** It will be a combination of both. We will be taking off the waiting list first, in the order received, while ensuring we're maintaining that one-to-one ratio. That means one skilled nursing facility transition to one community placement through our Care Coordination agencies.

#### 5. Open Discussion

- **Doug Micetich (SVILC):** Can the Assistive Devices service be used to add a pool lift, so that the homeowner can continue in home therapy?
- **Karli Holkko (DHCS):** For all assistive devices or any request for reimbursement through the assistive devices service, you will first have to confirm whether or not the item is considered durable medical equipment and reimbursable by Medicare or Medi-Cal. If the item is considered DME but you are still requesting to bill the item to the CCT program we need to see the denial from Medicare, Medi-Cal fee-for-service, or the Managed Care plan before we can approve covering the item through CCT. The LO must also include medical justification for the requested item signed by a licensed professional (e.g., RN, Physician, PT/OT).
- If it's not a DME item, then yes, you can submit it through the CCT program. Again, the LO must include medical justification for the requested item signed by a licensed professional (e.g., RN, Physician, PT/OT).

#### Action Items

- Confirmation of where LOs can submit support for the EMPOWER Care Act
- Contact information for Rudy Acosta

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