

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION (DDA)
RATE REVIEW ADVISORY GROUP (RRAG)**

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM

Location: GoToWebinar

Attendance:

Co-Chairs

1. Jennifer McIlvaine, Director of Finance, Medicaid, MDH
2. Robert White, Chief Operating Officer, DDA

Advisory Group Members

1. Donna Retzlaff, Spring Dell Center
2. Shauna Mulcahy, The Arc Frederick County
3. Gregory Miller, Penn-Mar
4. Karen Adams-Gilchrist, Providence Center (excused)
5. Laura Howell, MACS
6. Karen Lee, SEEC
7. Carol Custer, SDAN
8. Chris Parks, Somerset Community Services
9. David Ervin, Makom
10. Mat Rice, People on the Go

State Panelists

1. Marlana R. Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary
2. Elizabeth Peters, Special Assistant (excused)
3. Wesley Huntemann, Chief of Staff
4. Nicholas Gabor, Director of Finance
5. Rhonda Workman, Director of Federal Programs and Integrity (excused)
6. Leslie Thompson, Acting Director of Programs (excused)
7. Wilika Ebo, Chief of Rate Setting, Medicaid (excused)

The Hilltop Institute Panelists

1. Christin Diehl, The Hilltop Institute
2. Alice Middleton, The Hilltop Institute
3. Chengli Sun, The Hilltop Institute
4. Elizabeth Blake, The Hilltop Institute
5. MaryAnn Mood, The Hilltop Institute

CBIZ Optumas Panelists

1. Steve Schramm, CBIZ Optumas
2. Caleb Lavan, CBIZ Optumas
3. Megan Frenzen, CBIZ Optumas
4. Winter Tucker, CBIZ Optumas

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 12:43 pm by Ms. Marlana R. Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Administration. She opened by reviewing the meeting agenda.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Jennifer McIlvaine, Director of Finance, Medicaid, MDH asked if there were any corrections to the minutes distributed to members on May 22nd. No changes were requested.

Motion by Ms. McIlvaine: Move to approve the meeting minutes for the April 18, 2024 RRAG meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Karen Lee, SEEC and passed.

Update on BLS Wage Analysis

Mr. Caleb Lavan, CBIZ Optumas, reviewed the comparison of the BLS Wage data from May 2023 to the current BLS wage, which showed decreases overall. This was presented as informational only. DDA has not made any final decisions related to updating the BLS wage for FY 2026. Ms. Lee asked if DDA is anticipating a decrease in the base rate for 2026. Mr. White reiterated that no final decisions have been made.

General Ledger Supplemental Updates

Ms. Christin Diehl, The Hilltop Institute, provided updates on the General Ledger Supplemental templates that were submitted by day habilitation providers. The 45 providers who submitted

productivity factor data represent 42% of total day habilitation providers who received payment for services during the study period. The quality of the data received is still being analyzed to determine completeness, consistency with reporting instructions, and usability.

General Ledger Template

Ms. Diehl provided updates on the General Ledger (GL) Template which serves as the long term data strategy for DDA to inform and support a data driven rate review process. All DDA providers are required to submit a GL Template including FY 2024 data. Templates are due no later than September 30, 2024. Ms. Diehl explained that there will be no new data elements added to the GL Template for FY 2024 data at this time. Ms. Diehl shared that there will be two training and technical assistance sessions offered in June that will include an overview of the template. All GL Template documents and resources are available on DDA website.

Acuity

Mr. White reminded the group that an acuity analysis will not be completed for the FY 2026 rate cycle. Instead, the focus will be on current DDA services and policies and providing additional training opportunities for CCS and providers.

Ms. Lee asked if there has been a change in practice or policy as it relates to approvals for individuals with more complex support needs as providers have been experiencing issues. Ms. Hutchinson stated that there has not been a change in policy or practice.

Mr. White provided details on the lunch and learn sessions that will be hosted in July by subject matter experts from our DDA regional office teams and will focus on specific examples and strategies they've encountered in their work. Mr. Chris Parks, Somerset Community Services wanted to confirm that providers would have the opportunity during the lunch and learn sessions to share their concerns related to acuity. Mr. White confirmed that providers will have the opportunity to submit examples of scenarios they experience and those will be used during the sessions as real time case studies. Ms. Hutchinson stated that members of the regional offices and headquarters will be present during these sessions so it can be a collaborative process.

Ms. Lee explained an issue with providers being told verbally when approvals are denied versus in writing and therefore preventing providers from appealing them appropriately. Ms. Hutchinson stated that if there are any decisions that result in denials, the individual will receive appeal rights and should exercise their right to appeal. Ms. Howell stated that some providers have been told that if they pursue an appeal that it could result in a gap in services. Ms. Hutchinson stated that she will address it with the team.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

No public comment submissions were received prior to the meeting. Time was provided for questions and comments from the public via the chat.

Next Steps and Adjournment

Ms. Hutchinson shared the schedule for the remaining RRAG meetings for 2024. Details were shared on how to register for upcoming RRAG meetings and where meeting materials can be found on the RRAG website. Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Hutchinson at 1:48 PM.