

CHOICES FOR INDEPENDENCE FOCUS GROUP

This BEAS Focus Group is designed to support the goal of improved communication, collaboration and outcomes of those we serve.
Focus Group Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2010

Present: Leah Chandler, Dan Hebert (conference call), Rebecca Hutchinson, Susan Lombard, Betsy Miller, Sandra Poleatewich, and Susan Young

Topic 1: Ongoing concerns about expenditures and the budget shortfall.

Discussion points:

- A. HB1355: This bill limits the Department's ability to transfer funds between budget lines to cover shortfalls.
- B. New RN Rates: The question was raised if the Department will have the funds to move forward with the rate restructuring for Home Health skilled nurse services and aide visits lasting less than two hours. These services are intended to be paid for on a per visit basis, rather than the current per 15 minute unit basis (p.s. The change in units was made, effective 4-1-10).
- C. Growth triggers: Betsy mentioned that she is interested in understanding the growth triggers within the CFI program.

Topic 2: Considering the effectiveness of BEAS General Memos concerning cost control.

Discussion points:

- A. Rebecca and Sandra reported that they have seen the case managers, working with the participants they serve, reduce the amount of personal care time being authorized.
- B. Sandra reported that when a nurse from Interim visits a participant to complete the Medical Eligibility Determination (MED) assessment form, the nurse is encouraged by the case manager to recommend the same services that are already in place.
- C. It was reported that Home Health agencies are no longer fulfilling requests to render services that have not been authorized, because they realize that they may not be paid for these services.
- D. It was also reported that there seems to be some confusion among some case managers about who has the authority to authorize services, the case manager or the BEAS nurse.

Next Steps:

- The next meeting date was scheduled at April 19, at 10 in the morning instead of in the afternoon, at the same location: State House Annex, 25 Capitol St., Room 425 (4th Floor).