



Meeting Notes Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Advisory Committee

Friday, February 5, 2016
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

MS Society, 900 S. Broadway Suite 200, Denver CO 80209

Attendees:

Chanda Hinton	Samantha Saxe	Tsilat Petros
April Kelly	Jan Ruscio	Andre Lang
John Berry	Lisa Dutkiewicz	Brittani Garcia*
Dawn Russell*	Lisa Bullis	Cara Lang
Jill Karno	Christiana Vonu*	

* Indicates Call-in Participation

I. Welcome, Introductions and Advisory Committee Ground Rules

II. Approval of December notes & Follow-up from December Meeting

- a. January meeting notes were approved by the group.
- b. Sam is posting committee meeting agendas and approved notes on the SCI Advisory Committee webpage.
- c. Jan reached out to individual acupuncturists in her network to recruit as provider. Two showed interest.
- d. Chanda and Sam meet with Candy Tefertiller. She is Director of Physical Therapy at the PEAK Center at Craig Hospital. They are discussing becoming a provider, but have not made a decision yet. Sam and Chanda will continue to discuss with them.
- e. Dawn and Chanda talked off line and decided not to pursue the provider in Boulder County because they are outside the counties that are covered in the waiver.
- f. April researched potential clinics that offer all three waiver services and she recommends:
 - i. Wellness Center on Colorado Boulevard
 - ii. Whole Health Center – Three locations
- g. Sam updated the Provider Resource Guide. She added links to regulations, added recommendation for appointment time, transfer time and best billing practices.
- h. Sam will follow up with Melissa McGuire regarding her contact for Medical Director at Craig Hospital.
- i. Chanda meet with Dr. Macklemore at MCPN. She had a list of great candidates but she is worried about conflict of interest. Chanda will follow up with Barry Martin and Dave Meyer for additional leads for Medical Director Candidates.
- j. **ACTION:** Sam will follow up to Jan’s contacts, Candy Tefertiller, Wellness Center, Whole Health Center and Melissa McGuire.
- k. **ACTION:** Chanda will follow up with Barry Martin and Dave Meyer.



III. SCI Waiver Update

- a. Waiver has not been approved yet but it's very close. The Department doesn't anticipate any major holdup.
- b. EBD, BI, CMHS adult waiver amendments were approved in January for a 2/1 effective date. Rate increases are not effective in SCI until the renewal is approved.
- c. The Department is working with CMS for final approval of SCI.
- d. The Department has re-submitted the waiver renewal twice since last meeting.
- e. Once the approval comes in from CMS, the Department can start implementing the changes on the waiver. The Department can official execute the contract with the independent evaluator, start enrolling new providers, start enrolling new clients from the waitlist, increase the number of clients that are being serving and implement the chiropractor rate increase.

IV. Provider Resource Guide

- a. Sam added a transportation section.
 - i. The section highlights that Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) is a service available to participants on the SCI waiver.
 - ii. Also clarifies that provider's transportation time to clients home is not reimbursable.
- b. If the group has additional suggestion for this section, please email Sam.
- c. Chanda suggested to add something to encourage clients to contact case managers if they are having issues with NMT providers.
- d. The group discussed and suggested to add something about handling emergency transportation issues such as having emergence contact in clients file and paying for transportation if client is left at providers office after hours to get client home (not covered by Medicaid).
- e. The group suggested to include the rate and unit limits (maybe attaching the SCI factsheet).
- f. There was a suggestion to include a cancelation section to encourage providers to communicate with their team/counterparts if a client cancels appointment.
- g. There was a suggestion to include a section on how to work client's wheelchairs, armrest, seat belt, and leg rests especially with electric wheelchairs.
- h. The group recommended that providers talk to clients about clients wheelchairs at the first appoint and include notes in the clients file.
- i. Sam also added a links to the billing manuals and billing trainings. She also updated the SCI specific billing manuals. It has new service definitions and updated language. Also the rates will be updated when the waiver is approved.
- j. The billing manual is completed but needs to be cleared by leadership. Sam hopes to have it cleared by March 1, 2016.
- k. **ACTION:**
 - i. Chanda will compile FAQ's from her billing experience as a new provider.
 - ii. Chanda will sit in on a CNA training to see if it is applicable for this population and check if there is a training on wheelchair care.
 - iii. Chanda will share information about free transfers training for families and friend offered at Craig Hospital.
 - iv. Sam will add emergency transportation information.
 - v. Sam will get billing manual cleared.
 - vi. Andre and Chanda will work on adding a section about wheelchairs.



V. SCI Data Sharing

- a. Chanda proposed the concept of a subcommittee to look at and analyze the raw data, including the data collected by the independent evaluator. The subcommittee could consist of people with backgrounds/preference for analyzing and reading data. The subcommittee could work with this committee and independent evaluator. The two groups could work together to come up with benchmarks for the SCI pilot program with the hope of gathering useful data to help the waiver expand geography and demographically.
- b. **ACTION:** Chanda to develop a subcommittee of SCI Waiver to support this
- c. All quarterly reports, annual reports and other finding by the independent evaluator will be shared with this group. The proposed subcommittee will critically look at raw data in addition to reports to analyze the data to improve the program and eventually expand the program.

VI. Independent Evaluator Contract

- a. The group reviewed the scope of work for independent evaluator vendor.
- b. The vendor will be working closely (collaborating) with the advisory committee.
- c. The vendor will be collecting lots of data including financial data and comparing the data with EBD waiver.
- d. The scope of work has been modified to require the vendor to report data projections and we could compare projections to real data collected in the future.
- e. The vendor will deliver the data projection and study design within sixty days.
- f. Sam adjusted the rate because the study is starting late. If the group has any feedback about the rate breakdown to the vendor, please email Sam.
- g. Please read the entire scope of work and send feedback to Sam.
- h. **ACTION:** Sam will talk to Zach in the legislative section to get feedback on rate breakdown.

VII. Medical Director Qualifications and Outreach

- a. The group discussed the lack of Medical Director Candidates despite the groups outreach efforts.
- b. The group discussed opening up the qualifications to include retired MDs, DOs Physician Assistance, and Nurse Practitioners.
- c. The statement of work currently does not qualifications. Sam will add qualifications section to the statement of work and send it to the group via email.
- d. The group will continue outreach effort with new qualifications in mind.
- e. The position requires approximately four hours per week time commitment for \$20,000 a year.
- f. **ACTION:**
 - i. Chanda will reach out to Jeff, Barry Martin, Dave Meyer, and Dr. Lanig.
 - ii. Andre will reach out to Dr. Yarnel
 - iii. Lisa D. will reach out to her network
 - iv. Sam will email new qualification to the group.
 - v. Sam will find out if the waiver could still operate temporarily without a Medical Director.



VIII. Public Comment

- a. Lisa – Grant is doing great and no longer in pain. His house call physician is not coming to the house month to month for the first time ever.
- b. Andre – SCI waiver and MS society has kept me out of the hospital and it has help me a lot.

IX. Review Next Steps, Meeting Evaluation & Adjournment

- a. Sam will send out the action items, meeting minutes and waiver updates.
- b. The group will continue outreach efforts for Medical Directors and Providers
- c. Next meeting will be held at MS Society, on March 4.

