



Montana Provider Rate Study Meeting For Participant Stakeholders Minutes

April 20, 2022
6:00 PM –8:00 PM (MST)

Zoom Invite Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88148308301?pwd=blhZZ1lMVHNxSmc2WjE2Z0F6SWhqdz09>

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

-) Jackie Jandt with DPHHS opened the meeting and conducted introductions.
- a) Jason Gerling Director with Guidehouse provided an overview of the meeting goals and topics for discussion.

2. Share Background on Why the Rate Study is Happening

-) Jamin Barber with Guidehouse provided an update on Why the Rate Study is Happening.

3. Describe the Rate Study Process

-) Guidehouse provided an update on the Rate Study Process
- a) Q: I am a consumer of PCA through MILP in the Bozeman area. I am unable to hire new helpers because a mix of \$10.87/hr. and \$12.41/hr. can't compare with McDonald's starting pay of \$20.00/hr. How can I ensure my personal situation becomes a part of your data in this study?
 -) GH: Two ways this information gets captured. First, providers throughout the state have submitted live responses for paying direct service providers and other staff. We know, in real time, that inflation is driving up cost of everything, but also drives up wage inflation. It's harder to compete so we look at BLS statistics and data, which we reference as part of rate setting process and is relatively sound approximation of how much wages are to be competitive for certain roles,

throughout all job classes. There are multiple ways to look at what people are being paid in real time and nationally that allows us to create a rate guide to make things more competitive than things stand today.

4. Share How the Rate Study Impacts You

-) Guidehouse shared an update on how the rate study would impact participants.

5. Walkthrough the Project Timeline

-) Guidehouse provided an update on the project timeline.

6. How Can You Stay Involved?

-) Guidehouse provided an update on listening sessions, webinars, and public comment meetings, among other ways to stay involved.

7. Comments & Questions

-) **Q:** How will the rate study impact financing and services of MT HCBS?
 -) **GH:** We're going to issue recommendations to the state on what an appropriate rate would be for services to meet all the data and study topics. The state has the ability to review and consider. DPHHS will review and consider on what this means for the future of reimbursement. However, this will have a budgetary impact, which means we will need to adjust the budget or potentially make changes to other rates. The legislature needs to consider these rates as well. There will be a public comment period on the rates and recommendations. We will put out recommendations on what rates could be based on measurements, but ultimately it is up to state to move forward, and both DPHHS and the legislature will decide on what to adopt and the impact to the budget.
- a) **Q:** Are the survey and town halls specific to Developmental Disabilities Self Direct Services?
 -) **GH:** Yes. The town halls will be for those on DDP who use self-direction with employer authority.
- b) **Q:** I appreciate this session to hear it live and I understand the process. Will this study get into how private insurance has differential pay for psychologists where Medicaid does not?
 -) **GH:** Other meetings will address employee related expenses and benefits. A lot of detail is in the decks. There may not be specifics on differential rate for skilled positions like psychologists, but if you have additional questions, please send to email address. Jackie provided an email and if there are other questions, we can take them offline.

Adjournment @ 7:15 PM (MST)

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