Medicaid Advisory Group - Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: October 5, 2026

Purpose

Review the current WA 3.0 service list structure, discuss challenges created by service-name variations, and gather advisory group feedback on simplifying service categories for Medicaid service logging and administration.

Key Discussion Points

Current State Challenges

- WA 3.0 includes numerous service-name variations added to match district IEP language and support specificity.
- The expanded service list has increased administrative complexity related to:
    - Provider setup and authorization
    - Certification and licensure management
    - Service mapping
    - Medicaid logging and troubleshooting workflows
- Missing service mappings can prevent eligible students from appearing in provider logging workflows, creating additional support burdens for district administrators.

Option 1: Maintain Current Service Structure

Advantages

- Preserves service specificity and alignment with existing IEP language.

Challenges

- Requires ongoing maintenance of service variations, provider permissions, and certifications.
- Increases complexity for providers and administrators.
- Creates confusion around service selection and Medicaid reimbursement eligibility.
- Limits flexibility in documenting related services.

Option 2: Simplify Service Categories

PCG Recommendation

- Return to a simplified service-list model similar to EasyTrac 2.0.
- Use broader service categories while maintaining specificity through documentation fields and optional skill-area designations.

Benefits

- Streamlines provider setup and certification management.
- Reduces administrative burden.
- Improves clarity around Medicaid-billable services.
- Provides greater flexibility for service documentation and reporting.

Considerations

- Service logs may not exactly match existing IEP wording during the transition period.
- Additional workspace mapping may be needed to support current IEPs until districts transition to simplified service names.

Additional Guidance Presented

Preserving Service Specificity

- PCG proposed using:
    - Text fields
    - Skill-area selections
    - "Areas Covered and Assessed" documentation fields
- These tools would allow providers to document specific skills addressed while keeping service categories streamlined.

Service Category Clarification

- Discussion emphasized distinguishing:
    - **Service discipline** (e.g., Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy)
    - **Skill focus** (e.g., fine motor, gross motor, articulation)
- The group reviewed distinctions among:

    - Special Education Services (SDI)
    - Related Services
    - Supplementary Aids and Services
- Clarification was provided regarding Medicaid-reimbursable service categories under Washington regulations.

Next Steps

- Advisory group members were asked to provide feedback indicating:
    - Support for maintaining individualized service names,
    - Support for a simplified service list,
    - Support with conditions, or
    - Concerns that require further review.

Key Takeaway

The workgroup focused on balancing IEP service specificity with a simpler, more sustainable system structure. PCG recommended moving toward broader service categories while preserving detail through documentation fields, with the goal of reducing administrative burden and improving usability across WA 3.0.