Reimbursement for Peer Support Services Through Medicaid

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Moderated by Steven Samra, C4 Innovations

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Working with communities to address the opioid crisis.

- SAMHSA’s State Targeted Response Technical Assistance (STR-TA) grant created the *Opioid Response Network* to assist STR grantees, individuals and other organizations by providing the resources and technical assistance they need locally to address the opioid crisis.

- Technical assistance is available to support the evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery of opioid use disorders.
Working with communities to address the opioid crisis.

✧ The Opioid Response Network (ORN) provides local, experienced consultants in prevention, treatment and recovery to communities and organizations to help address this opioid crisis.

✧ The ORN accepts requests for education and training.

✧ Each state/territory has a designated team, led by a regional Technology Transfer Specialist (TTS), who is an expert in implementing evidence-based practices.
Contact the Opioid Response Network

✧ To ask questions or submit a technical assistance request:

- Visit www.OpioidResponseNetwork.org
- Email orn@aaap.org
- Call 401-270-5900

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Meet the Presenters
Judy Fox
Peer Workforce Development Specialist, C4 Innovations

Anita Bradley
Chief Executive Officer, Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)

Denise Holden
Chief Executive Officer, The RASE Project
Training Objectives

✧ Review of Medicaid and peer support service funding
✧ Discuss the legality and requirements to receive funding
✧ Identify pathways used to implement peer support services
✧ Discuss the types and scope of peer services covered by Medicaid, using Ohio, PA, FL and RI as examples
What is Medicaid?

✧ Medicaid is a federally aided medical care program
✧ Some federal tax dollars go toward helping states fund their programs.
✧ Programs are operated at the state level, so certain elements of each program may be different.
✧ Whether a person qualifies for the state-run coverage depends on income and resources.
What is a Medicaid State Plan?

✧ A Medicaid state plan is an agreement between a state and the Federal government describing how that state will operate its Medicaid program.

✧ It sets out groups of individuals to be covered and services to be provided.

✧ Recovery Support Services may be in a state plan.

✧ Services provided by a state plan must generally be offered statewide.
What is an 1115 Waiver?

✧ Process by which states seek permission to provide a service, such as peer support services, as a demonstration which is funded like other Medicaid services in the state plan.

✧ States are permitted to “waive”, or overlook, certain federal Medicaid requirements such as providing the service statewide.

✧ Allows for experimental or pilot projects.

✧ The Affordable Care Act (ACA) amended the 1115 process by adding a new requirement to ensure the public has sufficient opportunities to provide meaningful input into the development of state demonstration projects, as well as in the federal review and approval of state demonstration applications and renewals.
Requirements for Medicaid coverage of Peer Support Services*

- Description of the service, the provider of the service and their qualifications.
- Peer providers must complete a training and certification program as defined by the state.
- Peer providers must receive supervision from a “competent mental health professional.”
- Reimbursement must be based on an identified unit of service and an approved plan of care.

*GAO-20-616
In 2018, 37 states support peers as a stand-alone service for adults with SUD.
How are states doing nationally with reimbursing peer supports with Medicaid funds (data)

Average Wage by HHS Region and Gender

National Survey of Compensation Among Peer Specialists, (Daniels et al., 2016) https://www.leaders4health.org/acmhanews/news/26
What worked in Rhode Island to get Medicaid to pay for peer services

- Doing leg work to set up training, certification, supervision, documentation
- BRSS TACS – united a diverse group of stakeholders around a common goal and led them through process
- State employee dedicated to seeing it through
- Perseverance – the process can take several years
How to identify allies in government who will support Medicaid reimbursement for peer services

✧ Find community allies – Medicaid reimbursement can provide sustainable funding for agencies serving disenfranchised people, RCCS, health and behavioral health organizations

✧ Identify agencies in your state that are responsible for behavioral health and the Medicaid Behavioral Health State Plan. (can be different agencies) and seek out consumer advocates

✧ REMEMBER: State employees work for you!
Medicaid Funding for Peers: Ohio
Recovery Support Services in Ohio

- Historical Perspective
- Evolution and Groundwork
- National Level Foundation
- Ohio Statewide Committees
Scope of Services In Ohio

- Individual Services
- Group Services
## Scope of Services in Ohio

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<th>H0038</th>
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Ohio Recovery Support Services Rate

Rate Analysis

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<tr>
<td>Individual Services</td>
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<td>$2 per unit per person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>$30 per unit per person</td>
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<td>Referral</td>
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Provider Concerns Historically

- Federal Level Concerns
- State Level Concerns
- Local Level Concerns
Reimbursement Rate Plans

- Workforce Strategies
- Certification
- Partnerships
- Opportunities
- Threats
Lessons Learned

✧ Planning Tips
✧ Models (i.e., Community Organizing, Peer Voice)
✧ Co-Opted Communities
✧ Learning to embrace change
Medicaid Funding for Peers: PA & FL
In 2006, Medical Assistance Reinvestment funds were made available to serve the recovery community in Central PA.

In January 2007, RASE was awarded the grant for the Buprenorphine Coordinator Program by the Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (CABHC).

This program was implemented in the 5-County Health Choices region of Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon.
Buprenorphine Coordinator Program designed to assure individuals who were receiving Buprenorphine/Suboxone were getting the proper recovery support and care management services they needed.

RASE developed a completely unique approach that had amazing results.
MARS Program

✿ Buprenorphine Coordinator Program eventually became MARS Program including services for individuals receiving Vivitrol as well as Buprenorphine

✿ **MARS** – Medication-Assisted Recovery Supports

✿ MARS now operates in 13 counties – 9 in PA, 4 in FL
The Recovery Specialist Program, implemented in April 2012 and funded by Health Choices reinvestments dollars, was designed to assist individuals in the 5-County region who needed 1-1 recovery coaching to assist to overcome obstacles keeping them from succeeding in their recovery process.

This program is now provided in 7 counties in PA.
Medicaid Reimbursable

- In PA, which has Medicaid Expansion, both MARS and Recovery Specialist Program became directly MA reimbursable as Supplemental Services.
- Original funder, CABHC, is the Medicaid “gatekeeper” for behavioral health services in PA.
- CABHC used reinvestment dollars to fund these programs.
- Once proven to be cost-effective, CABHC helped RASE Project programs become approved as Supplemental Services. CABHC created a rate that equalled the grant-funded dollars to ensure RASE Project remained solvent once our services transitioned to fee-for-service reimbursement.
Not All States are Created Equal

- In FL, there is NO Medicaid Expansion and NO Supplemental Services
- To become Medicaid reimbursable in FL, need to find a Medicaid doctor, hospital or healthcare center that is willing to partner with an RCO and allow us to bill under their Medicaid number
- Additional challenge – very few people in FL qualify for Medicaid.
- Not feasible for RASE to become Medicaid billable in FL
- Funding RASE receives in FL comes from the Managing Entity via State Opioid Response (SOR) funding and is for the indigent and underinsured.
- Only the MARS program funded in FL
Importance of Data Collection

✧ The Key to leveraging funding for our services is Data Collection. By consistently collecting measurable data, RASE Project is able to provide that to funding sources.

✧ Funding Sources *love* good data. We collect the same data in every program we provide.
Data RASE Collects

1. Length of Time in Sustained Recovery
2. Stable Housing
3. Gainful Employment
4. No New Crimes
5. Improved Family Relationships
Discussion/Q&A
Resources

✧ *Report to Congress: Transparency in the Review and Approval of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Section 1115 Demonstrations*

✧ *Substance Use Disorder: Medicaid Coverage of Peer Support Services for Adults (US Government Accountability Office)*

✧ *Recovery Support Services for Medicaid Beneficiaries with a Substance Use Disorder*

✧ *Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services (CAPRSS)*
Links to Previous Webinars in Series

Sustainability Ideas for RCOs During Economic Crisis
https://youtu.be/FeN8pFwD8mk

Increasing Racial Equity in Recovery
https://youtu.be/9UAfb1lbQmY

Developing the Peer Workforce through Training, Internships and Job Placement
https://youtu.be/FuU2EnYsgiQ

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