

# **Administrative/Regulatory Relief Work Group Minutes September 21, 2010**

## **Opening Remarks**

Chuck Monson began the meeting by welcoming some new members as well as the “old timers” and pointed out that we have been in existence for almost three years. He conveyed to the group that it has been a great experience working with his Co-Chair, Alexis Gadsden, and thanked Steve Hanson for being our facilitator. He also thanked the members for their continued support and acknowledged the many accomplishments of the Work Group.

Alexis also thanked the group for their extraordinary work and continued partnership with OASAS and recognized the relationship between the providers and OASAS as a “team”.

## **Work Group Status Reports**

### **Unified Reporting**

The Work Group was asked to take one last look at the Treatment Progress Report. Since Work Group made several recommendations/changes to the document at the meeting, the members were asked to submit their changes to Sandra Schleicher and Alexis Gadsden within 2 weeks. A suggestion was also made to develop an instruction sheet for completing the form. Upon receipt of the recommendations/changes, Sandra and Barbara Vuolo will modify the document and convert it for posting on the OASAS web site.

### **Smart Records**

Joe Chelales began his report-out by informing the Work Group that he had accepted another position and that today was his last day at OASAS. After much fanfare and accolades, Joe indicated that the Smart Records guidance document was completed and was in the process of getting posted to the OASAS web site. The posting would also include a Resident Handbook as well. It is expected that an Outpatient Handbook would be developed by his replacement.

### **Regulatory Reform**

Trisha Schell-Guy and Sara Osborne, from OASAS’ Counsel Office, provided the group with a status report (hand out) on regulatory reform and gave an overview of all of the regulations currently under revision. They reminded everyone of the time-consuming process for completing regulatory changes and thanked all of the members who participated in the process.

## **APG Update/Guidance Document**

Ilyana Meltzer and Pat Lincourt provided the group with an update on APGs. October 1<sup>st</sup> was the expected implementation date for OASAS certified hospital-based outpatient clinic providers; October 4<sup>th</sup> for certified hospital-based opioid treatment providers; and January 2011 for free-standing outpatient clinics. However, they cautioned that the dates may be delayed if all required conditions have not been met. **Update: the implementation date for certified hospital-based opioid treatment providers has been delayed until November 8<sup>th</sup> – please refer to the following link for more information:** <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/admin/hcf/APG/Index.cfm#guidanceletter>. **Additionally, we have learned that APG implementation for free-standing outpatient clinics has been delayed until July 2011.**

They indicated that there would be a testing period of approximately 1 ½ - 2 months (mid-November) to test file transfers with DOH. Additionally, the Ambulatory Patient Groups (APGS) Policy and Medicaid Billing Guidance Manual for OASAS Certified Outpatient Chemical Dependence Programs has been updated based on feedback from the field and is available at the above-referenced web site.

## **Part 822 Update**

Bill Lachanski indicated that a new draft Site Review Instrument (SRI), based on the new Part 822-4 regulations, was almost complete and was looking for volunteers to join a new, Part 822-4 Outpatient SRI and Provider Subcommittee. The volunteers would review the instrument for consistency/clarity and participate in the review of draft model case records. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

In this same regard, Bill was looking for volunteers to review the draft Part 822-5 Opioid Treatment SRI (which was still under development) for consistency/ clarity. A sign-up sheet was passed around but, due to the limited number of Opioid Treatment providers on the Administrative/Regulatory Relief Work Group, we may need to reach out to a few non-members join the subcommittee.

Both groups will be short term and charged with finalizing the respective instruments and corresponding model case record forms. The members may also be asked to participate in regional trainings as well. Once finalized, the documents will be placed on the Administrative/Regulatory Relief Agenda for review and approval of this group.

Bill indicated that he expects the Outpatient regulations to be promulgated in January 2011; therefore, the Program Review Unit (PRU) is planning to perform as many recertification reviews based on the current regulations for providers expiring up to June 2011 to: 1) avoid a backlog in the PRU and 2) allow time for providers to come into compliance with the new regulations as PRU expects to begin recertification reviews based on the new regulations in July 2011.

For Technical Assistance (TA) support, Bill indicated that providers can contact the TA Unit via e-mail at [technicalassistance@oasas.state.ny.us](mailto:technicalassistance@oasas.state.ny.us) or can contact Laura Higgins at (518) 485-1121.

### **Quality Indicators**

A report based on approximately 3 years of quality indicator data was distributed to the Work Group. The report was broken down by region and detailed the top OMIG quality indicator disallowances for outpatient providers. The Work Group thought that this information was helpful and would like reports to be developed for other services types as well.

### **Parts 815, 818 and 819**

The Work Group was provided one last opportunity to submit recommendations/changes to the above-mentioned regulations prior to submission to OASAS' Counsel. Recommendations/comments were to be sent directly to Chuck within two weeks of the meeting.

### **Quality Management Planning Subcommittee (Joan Disare)**

Joan informed the Work Group that the Quality Management Planning Subcommittee completed its series on Medicaid Mondays. The 4 sessions were archived and can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/admin/hcf/part521/index.cfm>.

The Subcommittee will now switch its focus to the Quality Improvement (QI) Element of the Gold Standard Initiative. Specifically, they will refine QI tools and success indicators necessary for the development of the GSI application process and to assist providers in increasing perception of care/patient satisfaction within their programs.

### **Gold Standard Initiative**

Chuck provided the group with an update on the Gold Standard Initiative (PowerPoint presentation) and the GSI web site.

### **Integrated Quality System (IQS)**

Janet Paloski updated the group on the status of the IQS Work Group. It is anticipated that Fiscal Viability ratings will be incorporated into the current recertification scoring methodology (last on-site recertification scores and on-site facility inspections) in November 2010. She also noted that an additional facility inspection rating will be added at that time to allow for a 2 year rating (currently there is no 2 year rating in place). The lowest rating received in any of the three areas identified will determine the length of an operating certificate up to a three-year period. Once the methodology for implementing Scorecard into the process has been completed, operating certificate terms will allow for up to a 4-year operating certificate.

## **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Chuck posed the following questions: Are we done? Do we stop meeting? Have we accomplished everything we set out to do? If we continue, what do we want to accomplish in the future?

Consensus was that we stay together and begin working on the following tasks:

- Part 816 Regulations
- Engage in discussions around the roll out of APGs and GSI
- Intensive Residential Rehabilitation
- More work to be done in the following areas:
  - IPMES
  - Scorecard (suggestion was made to have a staff member(s) from the Division of Outcome Management and System Investment familiar in the area of Scorecards and/or IPMES be asked to join the Administrative/Regulatory Relief Work Group.

## **Next Meeting**

Chuck and Alexis thanked everyone for their participation and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.