



Expert Billing & More, Inc. **May 2008**

[Upcoming changes....as reported from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. via email on 4/30/08](#)

Budget Update: The budget conference committees are over and the budget is on a 72 hour waiting period that is required by law.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities: House leaders fought valiantly for language that would modify tiers and for the House position on provider rates.

Most of the Senate positions for individuals with developmental disabilities prevailed and the Senate did not entertain new language that would have eased the implementation of the tiers.

The main APD final conference outcomes are as follows:

- Providers lose 43 million dollars with a 5.5 % cut.
- Cost Plans will be frozen at the expenditure level plus 5% with certain exceptions.
- Tier One remains uncapped
- Fair Hearings remain in the Department of Administrative Hearings.
- There was over 3 million dollars assigned for more people to do consumer assessments.

**FYI, this is a valuable organization that provides updates to anyone that signs up for their mailing list. Visit them at www.fddc.org to sign up for their updates.

[A brief description of the Tiers as noted on the APD website:](#)

Tier 1 Waiver (Currently the Developmental Disabilities Waiver)

- The individual has intensive medical or adaptive needs that are essential for avoiding institutionalization, and the individual's needs cannot be met in Tier Waivers 2, 3, or 4; or
- The individual has behavioral problems that are exceptional in intensity, duration, or frequency and present a substantial risk of harm to themselves or others, and the individual's needs cannot be met in Tier Waivers 2, 3, or 4.

Tier 2 Waiver (A new waiver capped at \$55,000 a year)

- The customer's service needs include placement in a licensed residential facility and authorization for greater than five hours per day of residential habilitation services; or
- The client is in supported living and is authorized to receive more than six hours a day of in-home support services.

Tier 3 Waiver (A new waiver capped at \$35,000 a year)

- The customer resides in a licensed residential facility and is not eligible for the Tier One Waiver or Tier Two Waiver; or
- The client is 21 or older, resides in their own home and receives live-in, In-Home Support Services, and is not eligible for Tier One Waiver or Tier Two Waiver; or
- The customer is 21 or older and authorized to receive Personal Care Assistance services at the moderate level of support as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Handbook; or
- The client is 21 or older and authorized to receive Skilled or Private Duty Nursing Services and not eligible for the Tier One Waiver or Tier Two Waiver; or
- The customer is 22 or older and is authorized to receive services of a behavior analyst and/or a behavior assistant.
- The client is under the age of 22, and authorized to receive the combined services of a behavior analyst and/or a behavior assistant for more than 60 hours a month and is not eligible for the Tier One Waiver or Tier Two Waiver.
- The customer is 21 or older and authorized to receive at least one of the following services: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, or Respiratory Therapy.

Tier 4 Waiver (Formerly the Family and Supported Living Waiver, capped at \$14,792 a year.)

- Clients who are currently assigned to receive services through the Family and Supported Living Waiver unless there is a significant change in condition or circumstance.
- The total budget in a cost plan year for each Tier Four Waiver client shall not exceed \$14,792 per year.
- Customers who are not eligible for assignment to the Tier One Waiver, Tier Two Waiver, or Tier Three Waiver shall be assigned to the Tier Four Waiver.
- Customers who are under the age of 22 and residing in their own home or the family home.
- Clients who are dependent children who reside in residential facilities licensed by the Department of Children and Families.

What does this mean for you?

Unfortunately things are still in limbo. The 5.5% cut was to the entire APD budget so how each service will be affected is unknown at this time. We will report additional information as soon as we are able.

Update on Handbook

At this time, we are still waiting for the handbook to be promulgated. Keep checking the APD/EDI website for the most current version to ensure you implement any changes that affect your services immediately.

Update on the transition to EDS as the new fiscal agent for Medicaid

The target date for the transition to EDS as the new fiscal agent for Medicaid is still July 1, 2008. As reported a few months back, EDS will be sending out login/password information for providers. This info should be coming no later than June. It is imperative that you follow the instructions because each provider will have to go online to identify Expert Billing as their billing agent of record to allow us to submit claims on your behalf. You can read more detailed info at <http://mymedicaid-florida.com/providerreadiness>.



- ⇒ Providers should be verifying that payments are made in accordance with what was billed. If there are any discrepancies, please contact us immediately so we can correct the issue if warranted.
- ⇒ Our problem log continues to expand. If we are unable to bill something due to a shortage in funds or a missing authorization, we hold the invoice in our problem log until the required authorization is received. When you finally receive the necessary authorization for the item in the problem log, to expedite the payment process, it is a

good idea to send a reminder email or fax about it so that we don't miss anything. We try our best to review the problem log every time a new authorization comes in, but with the number of faxes that come in on a daily basis, it is possible we may overlook something.

- ⇒ Just a reminder, when submitting payments to Expert Billing either by check or online, if you are not the one sending in the payment, please make sure to include in the comments section your provider name so we can credit your account correctly.
- ⇒ Please ensure that we have your correct contact information, especially email addresses. We send out a lot of important emails throughout the month that you don't want to miss. If you think we already have an email address for you but you are not receiving at least one email per month from us, then your emails are being returned.
- ⇒ If you have moved recently or are planning to move, don't forget that you also need to contact ACS Provider Enrollment to request a change of address form. Even though you are receiving your payments via direct deposit, if they mail you something and it is returned, your account will be put on hold until the address is updated. You can contact Provider Enrollment at 800-377-8216. You should also notify your local APD office so they have your most current information.



Upcoming Holiday Office Hours

Memorial Day - Monday, May 26, 2008 – Office Closed
Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2008 – Office Closed

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call.