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From: **Matt Hansen, DPT (HHAU)** <ut.homecare.hospice@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 5:12 PM

Subject: Talking Points re: Rural Home Health Reimbursement Multipliers

To: Jennifer Strohecker <jstrohecker@utah.gov>

Hi Jennifer and Russell,

I apologize that I'm not available for tomorrow's appropriations meeting. We have an Executive Committee at the same time. Please see below in regards to historical context and points to consider.

- It has historically been very difficult for home health and personal care providers to recruit and retain caregiving staff in the most rural areas of the state, including San Juan County.
- In order to try and help with member access to care, the State proposed and approved higher reimbursement rates for areas that were difficult to cover. Some of Utah's most socioeconomic and physically vulnerable individuals live in these zip codes.
- Most of the enhanced rates are approx. 2x higher than the standard published rates. However, in San Juan County, they are approximately 4x higher and - the most remote areas of the county - are 7x to 14x higher than the standard published rates.
- Questions that need to be answered in order to help ensure continued member access to care if the multipliers are reduced:
 - How many of the caregivers hired by agencies are Medicaid member family members vs. others from the local workforce?
 - If family members are being hired, what training and oversight is occurring?
 - How much are providers reimbursing the caregivers? If the multiplier were lowered, would it result in the caregivers refusing to work?
 - Some providers have expressed that the rural reimbursement rates help to subsidize the regularly published rates in the state, which are, in many cases, below the cost of care. If the rural multipliers are lowered without the standard published rates being increased, will it result in more providers leaving the industry completely and causing a bigger access to care issue?

Please let me know what questions the Committee has and how we can help.

Best,

Matt

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