

Assisted Living Rate Methodology Review Workgroup
 Drifters, 325 Hustan Ave
 September 4, 2018
 1:00 – 4:00 p. m.

Members Present: Steve Duies, Roberta Hindberg, Laura Wilson, Brett Hoffman, Katie Nagle Gloria Pearson, Denice Houlette, Leslie Lowe, Beth Dokken, Darin Ries, Amanda Van Balen, Yvette Thomas, Misty Black Bear. Via Phone: Paula Cape, Nathan Gelhaus, Rhona Snyder

Gloria welcomed returning members and started the round of introductions.

Gloria shared a positive support plan definition. Leslie explained the updates made to the AL Service Specification form, including the definition for the positive support plan. Gloria shared a sample of a positive support plan for a person with Alzheimer’s, reviewing the plan by section. Using person centered tools to find out more about the person being supported in order to determine what is important to the person for them to have a good quality of life is an important part of Person Centered Thinking. One of these tools is called a “one page description”. This form provides a structure to document the information known about the person so staff can provide services in the way the person wants. Gloria also brought a sample of the Communication Chart and explained how it’s used to help support staff keep track of and learn the most effective way to support an individual. These tools can help with staff turnover by making it easier to support an individual and help with the transition to another facility when the time comes. The Department routine offers training on Person Centered Thinking that we would encourage all providers to attend to learn more about the tools that can be utilized. The Department is currently in the process of training staff to be certified Person Centered Thinking trainers to facilitate more available trainings across the state.

Yvette asked those providers that had completed a review on the individual’s in their facilities using the Service Specifications sheet to share with the group. Steve and Roberta indicated that several of the individuals reviewed at their facilities fell into Tier 3 because they are diabetic.

Facility	Tier 1 (Basic)	Tier 2	Tier 3
Morgan Lane	1	6	13
Helping Hand	17	0	12
Marion	1	3	1
Edgewood Pierre	0	2	3
Good Same	3	11	10
	22	22	39
			83
	26.5%	26.5%	47%

Gloria indicated the state has some concerns regarding the break out of the Tier grouping; the goal is that Tier 1 should represent a majority of the population in order to have this approved. Laura commented that she believes the state isn’t aware of everything Assisted Living providers are already providing to residents to keeping individuals out of the nursing home. Steve commented that he thinks the form is overly complex and that it could be narrowed down. He shared a form that he had put together prior to today’s meeting but indicated his version could be changed to combine some things or remove items that don’t take much extra times.

Yvette shared that the goal was to achieve a reasonable rate for the base tier, which should include the majority of people, and focus on things that would truly mean a move to the nursing home or take more time for Tiers 2 and 3. The members worked in small groups to discuss the form to determine what items could be moved, combined or eliminated. The entire group then reviewed the form by section with each group reporting what they changed for each section, followed by discussion to reach consensus. Yvette made adjustments to the electronic form as we reviewed each section.

Amanda Van Balen reviewed the Example Rate Methodology handout, utilizing the current year cost reports for information on the base tier. Using this methodology, the base rate tier would increase by more than \$7 per day; the current rate of 48.32 is significantly lower than the costs reported by current Assisted Livings. Tier 2 was adjusted by .5 hour per day for extra care and Tier 3 was adjusted by 1 hour per day for extra care. Workgroup members were happy to hear the state received 70 out of 95 potential provider cost reports and felt the newly calculated base rate (Tier 1) rate is a definite improvement. Yvette asked the group if .5 and 1 hour per day increase is enough to cover the tasks included on the AL Specification worksheet. Members felt it was pretty close and agreed any more than that may be too much. The group also felt that if we have built a good methodology for the rate, the rate increases in the years to come will continue to reflect everything the group has included in the tiers.

Next Steps:

- LTSS will update the AL Specification form and send it back out to the group, including all members of the workgroup to get a broader perspective.
- DHS will move forward with requesting money in the budget for SFY2020 to fund the new rate methodology and the tiers.
- DHS will draft the final recommendations which will be shared with the SB147 steering committee, for presentation to the Legislature.

Meeting adjourned.