

MINUTES
Stakeholder Conference Call
August 25, 2006

Attendees: Stakeholders, Regional Community Services Staff, HarmonyIS Milestone Oversight team, HealthCarePerspective LLC team, Mrs. Wilson, Fordyce Mitchel, and Daphne Rosalis

1. Our discussion today is about the National Provider Identifier (NPI). We understand that EDS sent out to providers a couple of messages saying that they would like the providers to apply for a National Provider Identifier. The reason for this is that it is a HIPAA compliance issue and you must have one by next May 2007.
 - a. The regulations state that the NPI is for medical providers (thinking doctors, nurses, therapist, hospital, and nursing homes) and there was an element in the guide that said waivers and case management are not medical providers. We have official communication from EDS that says we don't need to get a NPI for waivers or case management providers.
 - b. However, EDS has sent out a letter to all the contractors that state they should get an NPI. Please understand this is not a settled matter yet, but we are going to give you some advice. It is easier to get an NPI now than it will be later on. We suggest that to be on the safe side those of you that have a performing provider number for the MRW, LAH, TCM, and TCM for EI should get an NPI number for each.
 - c. Once you obtain your NPI you are suppose to send the number and supporting documentation to Jean Watson at EDS. You should include your performing provider number and a short program to description to Jean Watson, and please send a copy to Daphne Rosalis at DMR. We will keep track of this and make sure that no one falls through the cracks when this goes live in May 2007. We will send something out to explain all of this. We will send you notification through e-mail and mail, as well as post information on our web site to try and control this, but we're not sure what is going to happen. First, we are not absolutely sure you will need an NPI. Since we don't know go ahead and get one and if you don't need it then you can throw it away. Second, we haven't had our detailed discussion yet with Harmony and with Finance about whether you will need one performing provider number or three. We say performing provider number for a reason. We currently give you a different performing provider number for each program. It is possible that within Harmony you could get down to one number and if you get down to one number will you need a NPI for that one number. The reason we are telling you this is because it is a complex issue and we don't want you to panic or worry. We will keep you informed about where we are going with this. We are suggesting at this time to get an NPI for every live performing provider number that you have.
 - d. The document from EDS (that has the grid in it) tends to indicate that our providers would apply as a facility. Based on the facility line you would need to say that you have one service location (even though you have multiple

group homes). They recommend that you obtain one organization NPI. We say you need to get one organization NPI for each performing provider number. We are also really talking about contractors. We don't think you need sub-contractors to get a NPI.

2. We are still waiting for the main deliverable from Harmony. That is supposed to be delivered the week of September 5. We should know more at that point. That is the week of our next conference call so we should have more information for you then.

Questions:

Question: In addition to the application for the NPI could you elaborate further on the supporting documentation for EDS?

Answer: We don't know so we can't give you advice for that. We believe you can go on-line and get additional information. The letter from EDS should explain everything. However, it appears that many of our stakeholders have not received the letter or the letter went to someone else in the agency. If you go onto the AL Medicaid web site and search NPI many documents will be available to view including the on-line application. If you didn't get the letter you need to look for it.

This actually won't go into effect until next June 1 2007. It will be the first check write in June and as you do you're billing for May 2007 services at the first of June if you have to have a NPI that is when it will come into play.

3. Next Meeting September 8th