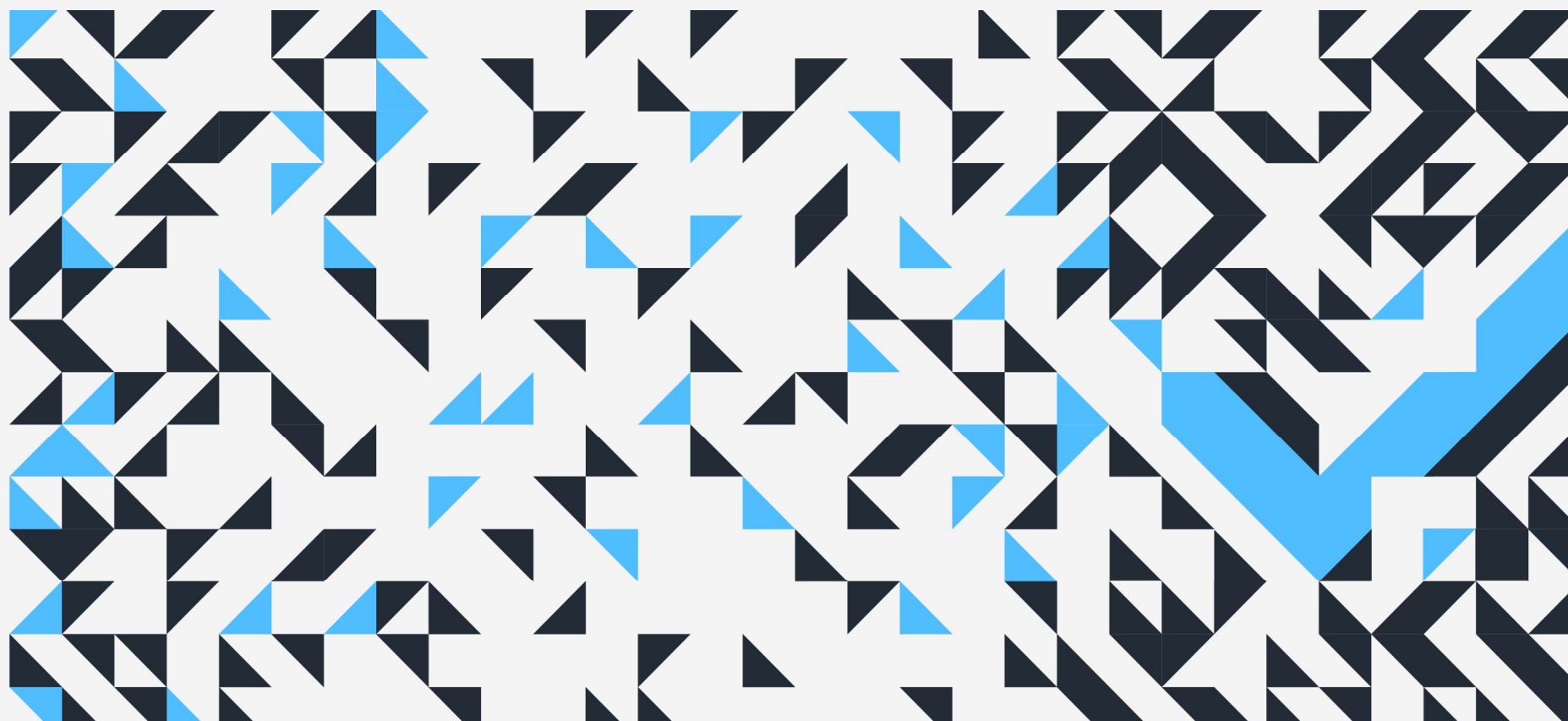


Applied Behavior Analysis Rate Study Kick-Off Meeting

September 25, 2023

State of Hawai'i Med-QUEST Division (MQD)



Aloha

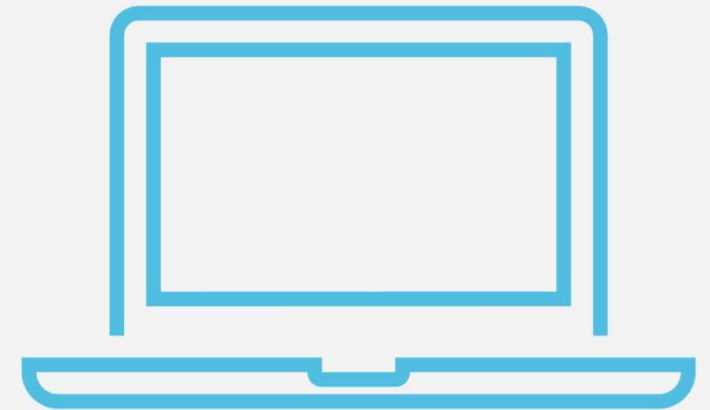
All participants are in listen only mode

Please use the chat function to submit any questions

We will address questions in between sections and at the end of the meeting

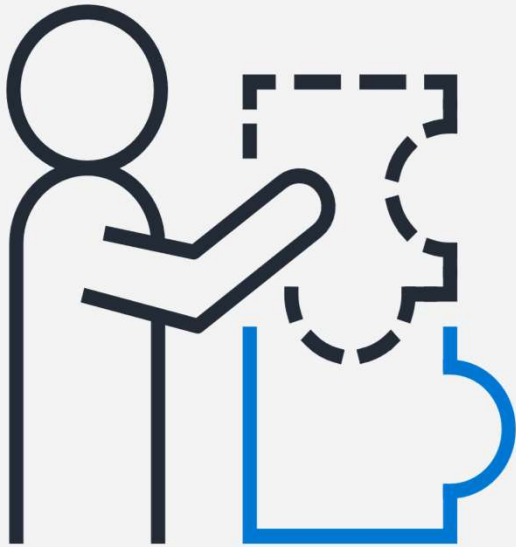
This meeting is being recorded and a link to the recording will be posted to the MQD website:

<https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/plans-providers/fee-for-service/fee-schedules.html>



Agenda

1	2	3
Project Overview and Background	Independent Rate Model	Project Next Steps



Project Overview and Background

Project Background



The State of Hawai`i Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is conducting an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services rate study for its Medicaid program. The project will provide better insight into the current costs associated with service delivery and staffing requirements.

This work is in compliance with the Hawai`i State Legislature's House Resolution #207 passed in 2023, which requests the Department of Human Services to:

- *“take steps necessary to ensure that adequate provider rates are established for applied behavioral analysis services”*
- *“assess current reimbursement rates for applied behavior analysis services”*
- *“submit a report of its findings and recommendations on appropriate reimbursement rate increases”*

MQD intends to align the ABA rate study efforts with its on-going Medicaid home-and-community based services (HCBS) rate studies, which were also requested by the legislature (Phase I HCBS rate study report was submitted by MQD before the 2023 legislative session)

Source: “Requesting the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division to Take Steps Necessary to Ensure that Adequate Provider Rate are Established for Applied Behavior Analysis Services,” H.R. No. 207, Hours of Representatives Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023, State of Hawaii.



ABA Service Delivery and Workforce Challenges

Key ABA service delivery and workforce-related challenges reported by stakeholders in SCR132 testimony on March 24 and April 13 of 2023:

Access to Services

- Providers reported that MQD beneficiaries can experience long waiting times to access services
- ABA waitlists can take a significant time to be cleared, including for MQD members

Current Reimbursement Rates

- MQD ABA rates were set in 2015 and have not updated since, resulting in rates inconsistent with recent on-going increases in wages and in costs of living
- Providers have been experiencing challenges in hiring, retaining, and developing the ABA workforce

Benchmark Rate Differences

- Providers submitted rate benchmark comparisons indicating that current Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) MQD rates are lower than other Hawai`i rate benchmarks⁽¹⁾ and below other state RBT Medicaid rates⁽²⁾
- *Note that payment rate benchmarking will be included in this project, which may indicate that not all ABA services are below other payer benchmarks*

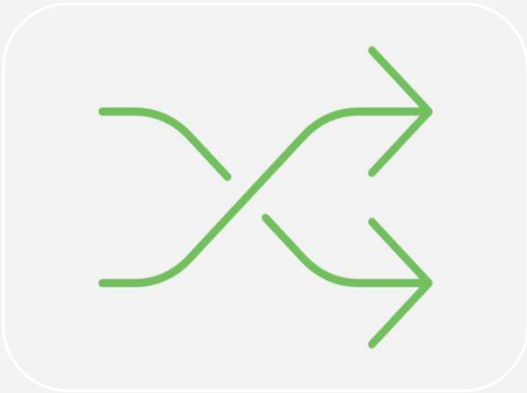
Notes:

¹Comparison rates references include TRICARE Hawai`i, Department of Education (DOE), and Department of Health (DOH) Development Disabilities Division (DDD)

²Sample comparison states included Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon Medicaid

Source: SCR 132 - Requesting the Department of Human Services' Med-quest Division to Take Steps Necessary to Ensure That Adequate Provider Rates are Established for Applied Behavior Analysis Services. State of Hawai'i: Department Of Human Services. 2023. Retrieved from: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SCR&billnumber=132&year=2023

ABA Rate Study Goals



Alignment and Transparency

bring continuity and alignment across the rate methodologies and providing a consistent framework



Adaptability

future payment rate updates and modification efforts are streamlined



Sustainability

facilitate adequate client access to services



Promotes Person-Centeredness

supports client access to person-centered services and drives healthy outcomes for all ABA program clients

ABA Rate Study Overview



The Hawai`i ABA Rate Study will include the following services:

- Behavior Identification Assessment
- Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment
- Direct Treatment by Protocol
- Group Treatment by Protocol
- Direct Treatment with Protocol Modification
- Family Training
- Multiple-Family Training
- Group Treatment with Protocol Modification
- Direct Treatment of Severe Maladaptive Behavior

As a result of the rate study, we will develop a range for “comparison” payment rates for MQD and legislature’s consideration. Any funding increases will need to be appropriated by the state legislature in order to be implemented. If approved, final comparison rates will be published for the use of providers and MCOs to consider when negotiating managed care contracts, and for MQD and other stakeholders to use when evaluating changes to overall funding.

High Level Tasks and Preliminary Timeline

The ABA Rate Study key tasks to be performed during calendar year 2023 are as follows:

Task	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rates Benchmarking				
Stakeholder Engagement				
Stakeholder meetings				
Provider survey				
Rate setting				
Draft rates				
Finalize rates				
Rate Report				

Independent Rate Model

Independent Rate Model Framework



Ground-up approach

- Rates are built from the ground up
- Based on sum of independently determined rate inputs and components
- Inputs are based on expected resources required to provide the service



Commonly applied method for rate determination for community-based services

- Many states employ independent rate model approach
- One acceptable method based on CMS guidance for community-based services

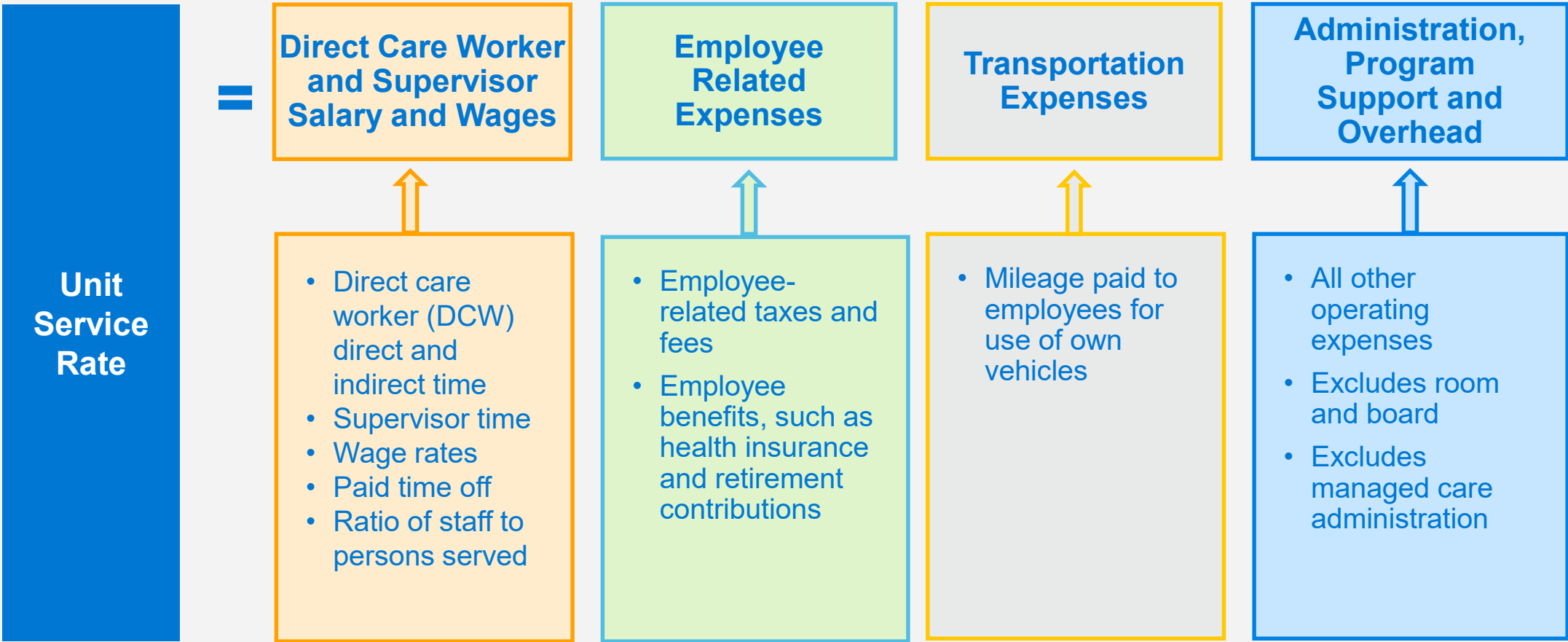


Benefits

- Provides transparency as to the reasonable costs required to provide the service
- Facilitates payment rate updates and modification efforts
- Facilitates comparison of actual costs of providing services
- Developed independently from actual costs incurred – not tied to historical costs

Independent Rate Model Framework

Rate Build Up Components



Potential Independent Rate Model Data Sources



Publicly available information, including but not limited to:

- Wage and employee benefit information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- State-specific wage and labor force projections



State and stakeholder guidance, reflecting the state and stakeholders' understanding of how the services are provided



Provider survey that will inform independent rate model assumptions (e.g., wages and administrative costs)



State memos and regulations, and program descriptions

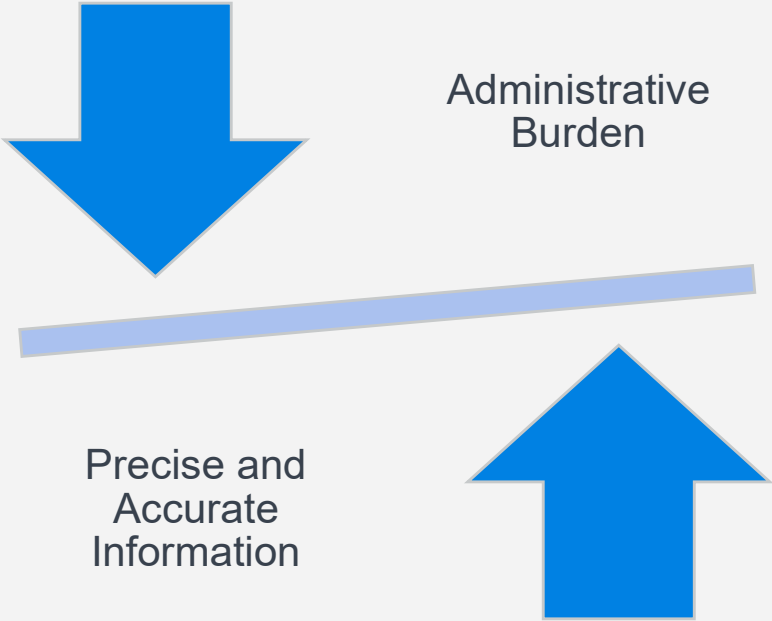
Provider Survey Overview

Purpose: Collect information on provider wages and costs to inform rate assumptions

Timeframe for Reporting: Snapshot in time (e.g., average hourly wage) and others will require looking at one year’s worth of data (e.g., administrative and program support costs for the most recent provider fiscal year end).

Respondents: ABA providers

Survey Data Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contact information▪ Staffing requirements▪ Turnover rate▪ Wages▪ Cost structure information▪ Individuals served



Stakeholder Engagement Overview



Workgroups Role:

- Provide subject matter expertise regarding service delivery and related costs for individual services (e.g., average wages, staffing levels and accreditations/certifications, direct vs. indirect time, transportation, training requirements, turnover, etc.)
- Provide feedback on important aspects of the project such as:
 - Key payment rate assumptions and payment rates
 - Implementation considerations
- Provide feedback from the perspective of their organization and other organizations across the state providing similar services
- Provide review and feedback on the draft ABA comparison rates before finalizing in rate study

Project Next Steps

Project Materials and Next Steps



Materials for ABA Rate Study will be posted on the MQD project website:

<https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/plans-providers/fee-for-service/fee-schedules.html>

Next Steps:

- Conduct an ABA provider meeting to walk through the draft ABA provider survey on **Thursday September 28th at 2:00 pm HST** (technical discussion for billing entities)
- Finalize ABA provider survey and instructions based on stakeholder feedback and distribute the survey
- Conduct a stakeholder meeting focused on service delivery, staffing and supervision approach, non-client facing time, and other key assumptions for rate modeling purposes
- Develop comparison rate calculations and other payor rate benchmarking for stakeholder meeting discussion
- MQD to submit the ABA rate study and budget estimates to the State legislature for their consideration

ABA Rate Study email address for questions and feedback: HI.ABA.RateStudy@milliman.com

Limitations

The information contained in this presentation has been prepared for the State of Hawai'i Med-QUEST (MQD) for the purpose of facilitating a September 25, 2023 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider stakeholder kick-off meeting with MQD, and is not appropriate for other purposes and is not considered complete without oral comment.

This presentation will be shared with Hawai'i Medicaid ABA provider stakeholders. This presentation may not be provided to other third parties without Milliman's prior written consent. To the extent that the information contained in this presentation is provided to any approved third parties, the correspondence should be distributed in its entirety. Any user of this information must possess a certain level of expertise in health care modeling that will allow appropriate use of the information presented.

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Thank you