

School Based Services Billing-- Parent Perspectives on Problems and Potential Solutions

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Parent **A**dvocacy **C**oalition for **E**ducational **R**ights

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PACER CENTER

- Federally funded Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) established in 1978.
- Currently 106 Parent Centers across the country
- Mission: To expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life for youth with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

PACER CENTER Projects

Education • Employment • Cultural Diversity • Health
Mental Health • Recreation • Housing • Technology
Juvenile Justice • Parent/Professional Collaboration • Bullying
Prevention

- Serve families and professionals in Minnesota and across the nation
- Provide individual assistance to families
- Train families and professionals
- Publish family-friendly materials for parents
- Develop resources and provide technical assistance to professionals who work with youth and families

PACER's HIAC

- PACER is the Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights
- Located in Minnesota
- HIAC is the Health Information and Advocacy Center at PACER
- HIAC is funded by grants from HRSA's Department of Child and Maternal Health and the Minnesota Department of Health

HIAC's Mission

- To provide information, resources, and advocacy about the health care system to families of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities.
- To provide information and resources to professionals who work with families.
- To promote family-centered care and family and professional collaboration at all levels of health care

HIAC provides information about:

- Understanding health insurance—including private insurance and medical assistance
- Filing an appeal with insurance
- Social security disability
- Understanding legal rights in the health care system
- Working effectively with doctors and other health professionals
- Developing health care summaries and plans for emergencies, home, and school.

HIAC resources

- Individual help by telephone and face-to-face meetings
- Newsletter about health care issues, recent legislation, and health resources
- Workshops
- Fact sheets and a variety of publications

Billing for School Based Services

- In Minnesota – “Third-party billing”
- Typical calls
 - Should I sign this?
 - Now they want me to sign a disparity agreement – should I?
 - Private insurance won’t pay for “duplicative services, what should I do?

What do you get when you mix special health care needs, insurance, children, school services and an “informed parental consent form” plus a “release of information form”?

NOTHING!

Parent's perspective

- Confusion
- Frustration
- Fear
- Apprehension

Excerpts from FAQ on Billings for School Services

- What things about billing my private health plan should I know?
 - If your plan pays the district for covered services, some limits and prior authorization limits may be affected.
 - If your plan pays the district for covered services, some annual and/or lifetime limits may be affected.
 - If your plan pays the district for covered services, the cost of your private health insurance could go up.

Typical Scenarios

- Should I sign the informed parental consent form?
- Should I sign the release of information form?
- What is a disparity agreement?
- Problems with duplication of services.

Barriers to billing for school services

- Parental confusion
- Parental refusal to sign
- Impact on private insurance limits and costs
- Requirement for informed parental consent
- Requirement for release of information for billing

Potential Solutions

- Simplify forms
- Simplify requirements
- Pay state share, not just federal share
- Educate parents
- Team up with local PTI (“parent training and information center”)
- Involve parents and create demand for school billing

Billing for School Services *is* good

- Involve parents
- Get creative
- Help kids
- Help schools

PARENTS WANT TO HELP SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS WANT TO HELP KIDS

Consider Assistive Technology

- Billing for AT
 - Promising practices
 - Troubling reality
 - It's the law!
 - Meet the special educational needs of children

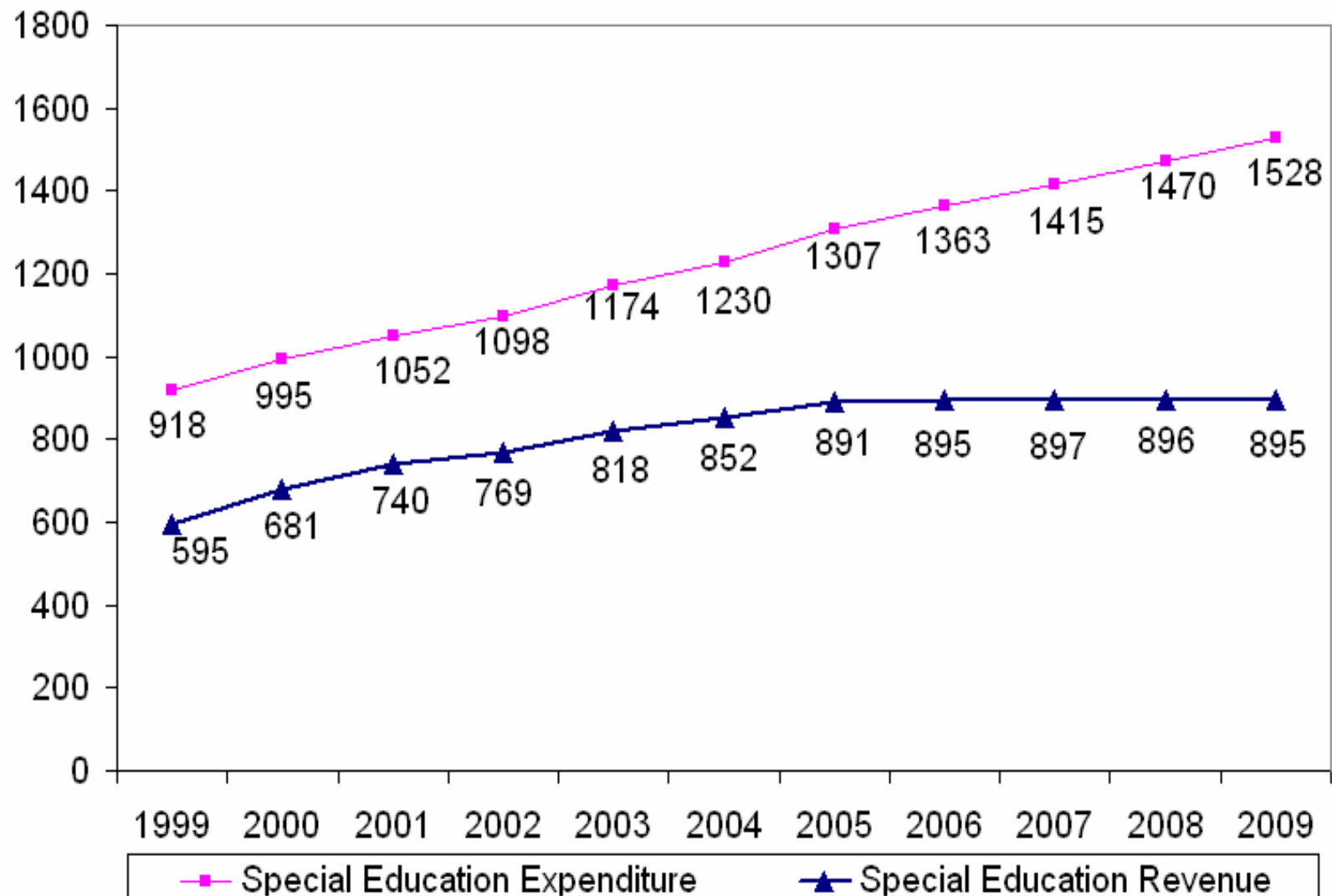
Parents Want to Help Schools and Schools Want to Help Kids

- Demonstrate success
- Simplify the process
- Can be structured to avoid adverse consequences
- Can be individually tailored
- Doesn't effect parental fees (yes, sign the disparity agreement!)
- Billing for school services brings additional money to the district for children who have special education needs

What can we do?

- Meet the special educational needs of children?
- Convince states to change laws and permit 100% of medicaid dollars to flow to schools?
- Simplify forms?
- Simplify procedures?
- Eliminate adverse consequences?
- Educate parents?
- Involve parents?

STATE TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES & EXPENDITURES \$ IN MILLIONS



Previous slide excerpted from presentation
entitled “MDE Time,” presented at the 2006
MASE Fall Leadership Conference by

Barbara Troolin, Amy Roberts, Tom Melcher

Discussion

- Questions?
- Thank you!

Contacts and Resources

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- PACER Center Website- www.pacer.org