



To: NADE Board of Directors
From: Kate Miller, Professional Relations Committee
Date: 2/16/2022
Subject: **NADE Professional Relations Committee Mid-Year 2022 Report**

Greetings,

The Professional Relations Committee chair has been in touch with committee members several times this year. Discussions have taken place about coordinating a breakout session for MPROs at the upcoming National Conference in Vermont. The committee has also brought forth several issues facing MPRO through the pandemic. The biggest issues discussed by the MPRO Committee are DCPS limitations, CE provider retention and recruitment issues, and providers requiring claimants be vaccinated.

DCPS enhancements continue to be very slow in terms of providing functional improvements to the CE scheduling queue. MPROs would like to see a hold feature similar to Legacy systems; an improved search criteria that allows multiple filters at once; and the block provider schedules linked on the CE dashboard. The DCPS interface with ERE has also presented multiple problems, in particular with the fiscal queue. As SSA launches their new electronic records process, it will be interesting to see how things transition with DCPS.

CE provider losses during the pandemic added to existing difficulty with recruitment, especially with psychologists. While it's been a challenge to find providers interested in performing testing, it's been much easier to recruit telehealth providers. MPROs are sharing their best practices for recruitment on their quarterly calls.

Some states are reporting more difficulty than others with providers requiring claimants to be vaccinated before scheduling them for a CE. The vaccination requirement is coming from a variety of providers, but most frequently from hospital respiratory departments. It's clear that COVID is not going away any time soon, and we cannot require claimants to be vaccinated, so this issue will continue to be a challenge for some DDSs. MPROs have been discussing different ways to work around the vaccination requirements, which seem to change periodically with the hospitals. We're hopeful that hospitals will drop their restrictions as the COVID numbers decrease.

MPROs on the Committee are excited about this year's training conference in Vermont. I look forward to seeing you all in person again very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Miller
Professional Relations Committee Chair
Medical Professional Relations Officer, MONTADE