

From: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Smith, Rick
Cc: Brown, Holly M
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

Rick,

We looked into the Life Sharing rate model in more detail and have a few initial questions on the Life Sharing with day rate. We will send a separate e-mail addressing the Needs Group 4+ rate and the Transportation-TRIP rate this week.

1. Can you provide some context regarding why ODP is looking to add a Life Sharing with day rate? Does ODP believe the current rates are too high?
2. There are only a few direct care hours assumed for Life Sharing in the current rates: 2-21 hours per week for 1-person licensed and 1-11 hours for 2-person licensed, depending on SIS Group. The majority of the costs are included in the stipend rather than hourly staff wages.
 - a. As a result, we are not seeing much room to reduce direct care hours to account for day activities. SIS Group 4 may be feasible, but that group still only assumes 14-21 direct care hours per week.
 - b. During our discussion, you mentioned a possible assumption of five hours per weekday for attendance of Day activities. The assumed direct care hours noted above seem to already account for a level of Day activity or other activities outside the home.
 - c. One option may be to reduce the Life Sharing stipend to account for more time being spent outside of the Life Sharing home – but we would like more background on the reason for this separate rate first to confirm it is reasonable. If we find that it is, is this something ODP would like to consider?

Thanks,
Jason

From: Smith, Rick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>
Cc: Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

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Thank you. There are a few small rate setting activities we will need assistance on...developing a life sharing with day rate and a discussion on a NG4+ rate I want to develop to eliminate some of these exceptional rates. Could you schedule 30 minutes in the next few days? I am leaving for vacation next Wednesday.

From: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:29 AM
To: Smith, Rick <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>; Stine, Brandon <c-brstine@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

Rick,

Attached please find the updated Exceptional Rate Tool. Mercer made the following updates:

1. Consistent with the assumptions in the FY 21/22 fee development for Residential Habilitation Group Homes and Life Sharing, we:
 - Updated wages on Assumptions worksheet
 - Updated allocation of direct care hours by position group on Assumptions worksheet
2. Updated all year references from FY 17/18 to FY 21/22 on Instructions worksheet and all worksheet headers

The file password is the same as what Brandon previously provided, and we have confirmed that password works for this updated version.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Jason

From: Wahlman, Jason
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Smith, Rick <[REDACTED]>; Stine, Brandon [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

Thank you both.

We will update the file and send back to you soon.

From: Smith, Rick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:01 AM
To: Stine, Brandon <[REDACTED]>; Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>
Cc: Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

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Yes to the first question. Thanks

From: Stine, Brandon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:38 AM
To: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>; Smith, Rick [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

Good morning Jason,

I am able to answer the 2nd question for you.

I believe the password that you had shared with Agnes previously was [REDACTED]. Please let me know if this works for you.

Thanks,
Brandon

From: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Smith, Rick [REDACTED] >
Cc: Stine, Brandon [REDACTED] >; Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Subject: [External] RE: Exceptional Rate Tool

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Rick,

We have a couple of questions about the tool updates:

1. In addition to the wage updates, should we update the allocation of direct hours by position group assumptions? We moved 5% from Bachelor's Degree to Associate's Degree for the FY 21-22 fee development.
2. Are you able to provide the password to unprotect the file? The Assumptions worksheet is currently locked from editing.

Thanks,
Jason

From: Smith, Rick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Wahlman, Jason <jason.wahlman@mercer.com>; Brown, Holly M <holly.brown@mercer.com>
Cc: Stine, Brandon <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Exceptional Rate Tool

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Good afternoon,
We will need the assumptions tab updated on this to reflect the new wages. No particular hurry. We will hopefully be reviewing all exceptional rates in the coming months.
Thanks

Rick Smith | Director
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