

PROGRAM EVALUATION OF PASSPORT: OHIO'S HOME AND
COMMUNITY-BASED MEDICAID WAIVER
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

William Ciferri

June 2007

Purpose:

This portion of the PASSPORT evaluation addressed fiscal accountability. The evaluation question was: Are Ohio's fiscal processes sufficient to ensure the fiscal accountability of funds expended through PASSPORT? Fiscal accountability includes all the mechanisms and processes that assure that funds are managed properly and procurements are undertaken in a fair, open manner. These processes involve multiple stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels. The fiscal accountability question must consider the "accountability dilemma", which is the attempt to balance accountability for finances, for compliance, and for fairness.

Methods:

- Focus groups with providers and PASSPORT Administrative Agency (PAA) Directors;
- Key informant interviews with staff at Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), and the PAAs;
- Site visits to PAAs;
- Observation of monitoring activities by ODA at the PAAs and providers; and
- Document review.

Findings:

- The PASSPORT Information Management System (PIMS) has an important function in billing and adjudication, but has limited management reporting capabilities. Better access to data could assist staff at all levels of the organization.
- On average, PASSPORT operates according to established rules and regulations. The financial integrity of the program has multiple levels of adjudication and financial auditing, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the PASSPORT consumer. Multiple monitoring visits occur for most providers annually.
- Case managers and the PASSPORT Information Management System play key roles in ensuring that services ordered and billed for are actually delivered.
- There are inconsistencies across the state regarding county turnaround times for financial eligibility determinations. As a result, clients may have different experiences depending on where they live.
- PASSPORT providers use a variety of strategies to ensure financial success. These include reducing the number of PASSPORT clients or shifting costs from PASSPORT to other home care programs such as levy-funded care or Medicare. Stagnant reimbursement rates have required creativity among providers to continue providing services.
- A significant amount of time and human resources are involved in certifying, providing technical assistance to, and monitoring each provider. The ability to build strong relationships with the best providers is limited by the PAA's need to establish and maintain accountability for all of them.

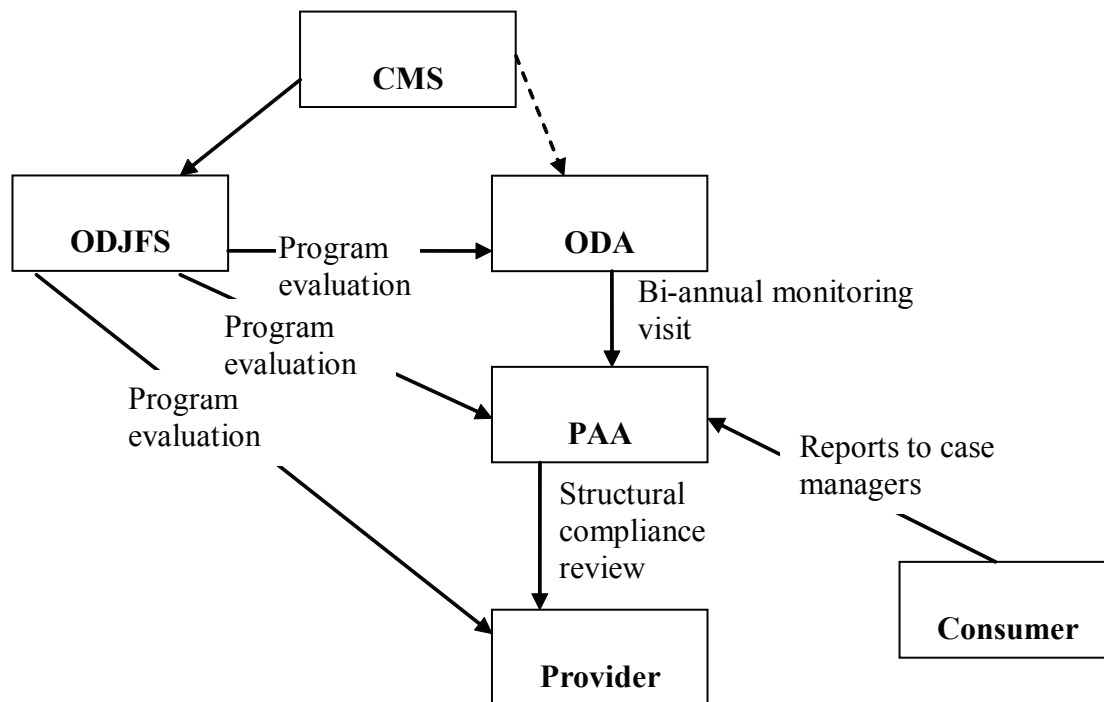


PROGRAM EVALUATION OF PASSPORT: OHIO'S HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED MEDICAID WAIVER FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Suggestions for the Future of PASSPORT:

- Improve the management reporting capabilities of PIMS.
- Request that CMS waive the requirement that PASSPORT approve any willing provider that can meet the conditions of participation.
- Standardize some aspects of PAA structural compliance review of providers. For example, conduct all monitoring activities during the same visit, and do not give providers advance notice regarding records that will be reviewed.
- Work with ODJFS on eligibility determinations and timing of formal auditing procedures.

Fiscal Monitoring for PASSPORT



www.scrippsaging.org

scripps@muohio.edu

(513) 529 2914

396 Upham Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056

To print/download this research brief or the full report go to:

<http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/research/publications/PASSPORTFiscal.html>

For other Scripps reports go to:

<http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/research/publications.html>

This study was funded through the Ohio Department of Aging.