

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and
Human Services



Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008

**Provider Information and Dialogue Session:
Young Parents Program**

June 25, 2014

www.mass.gov/hhs/chapter257
eohhspospolicyoffice@state.ma.us



Agenda



Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008

Review of Pricing Process

Overview of Young Parents Program

- Description and Overview of Program
- Program Components
- Program Operations

Provider Survey Preview

- Programmatic Hours of Operation
- Class Composition & Size
- Staffing Considerations
- Enrollment through end goal
- Sample survey



Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008 Regulates Pricing for the POS System



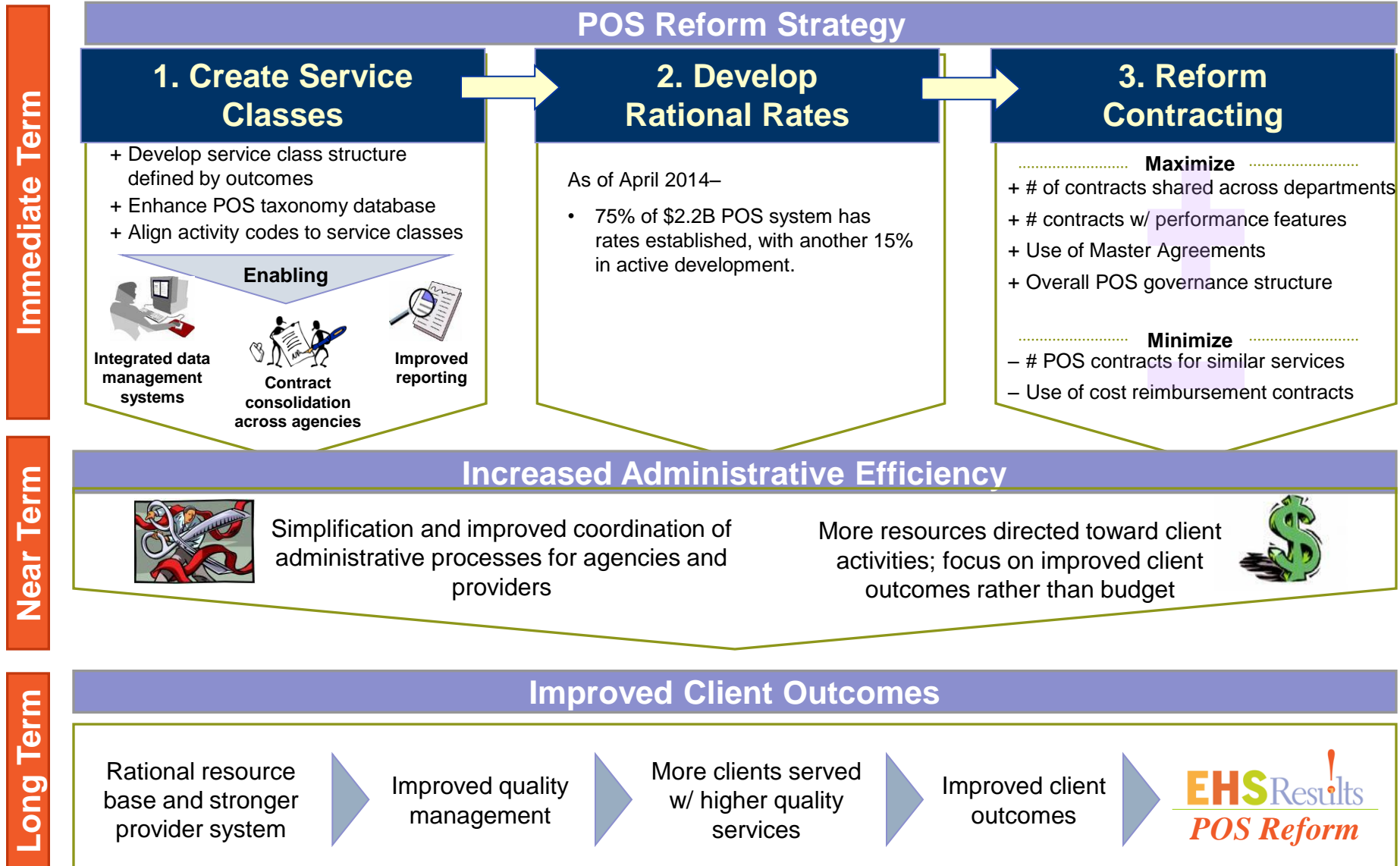
Chapter 257 places authority for determination of Purchase of Service reimbursement rates with the Secretary of Health and Human Services under MGL 118E. The Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) provides staffing and support for the development of Chapter 257 pricing.

Chapter 257 requires that the following criteria be considered when setting and reviewing human service reimbursement rates:

- Reasonable costs incurred by efficiently and economically operated providers
- Reasonable costs to providers of any existing or new governmental mandate
- Changes in costs associated with the delivery of services (e.g. inflation)
- Substantial geographical differences in the costs of service delivery

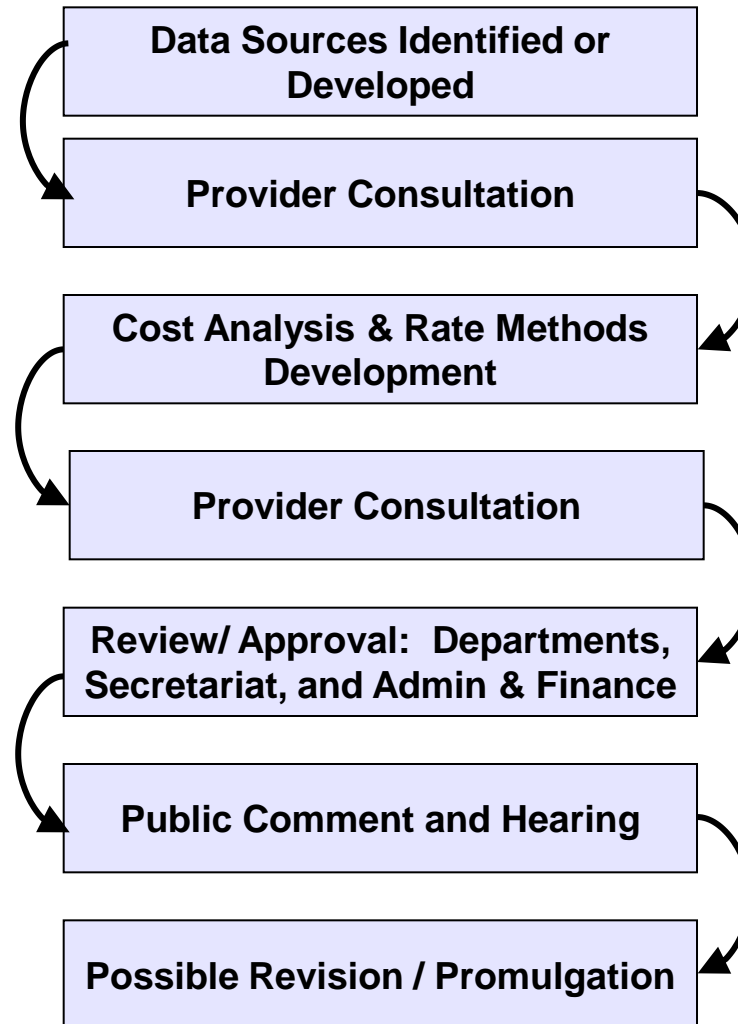


Chapter 257 Supports POS Reform Strategies





Process of Analysis, Development, Approval, and Hearing





EOHHS Approach to Ch. 257 Rate Development



For all services under rate regulation, EOHHS reviews existing pricing methodologies, gathers input from departments and providers, and conducts analyses of existing cost and utilization changes to existing rates or proposed new rates. The following factors may be considered in Chapter 257 rate-setting:

- Salaries and Wages
- Taxes and Fringe Benefits
- Management and General Costs (e.g., Indirect)
- Client to Staff Ratios
- Cost Adjustment Factor (CAF)
- Productivity Factor/Utilization Rate
- Relief Factor
- Geographic Variation



Key Inputs



Data that will be taken into consideration when reviewing and establishing the rate for the Young Parents Program.

- FY2013 UFR data
- Contract data
- Provider Survey information



Young Parents Program Description



The Young Parents Program is a part of the Department of Transitional Assistance's Employment Services Program (ESP). These services are provided by contractors statewide, for Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) participants.

The Young Parents Program is directed toward reducing welfare dependency among young parents, ages 14 through 21 years of age, who have not achieved a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Through the provision of basic education; English as a second language (ESL); life and parenting skills; prevocational activities; job development; placement and follow up; personal, academic, and vocational counseling; case management, advocacy, and referral services; and support services, young parents will be assisted towards employment and long term economic self sufficiency.



Main Program Components



Assessments & Participation Plan

- Age range 14 -21 year old young parents
- 40 hours participation to become enrolled in program
- Initial assessment to determine current academic grade level
- Minimum program participation requirement is 5 months
- End goal is to achieve HSE and/or job placement

Minimum of 20 hours per week participation

- 12 hours per week of academic instruction
- 8 hours per week of life and parenting skills
- Individual assessments conducted every 5 months



Program Operations



- Program operates year round unless it is a school based program
 - 52 weeks per year
- Program Staff:
 - Program Director
 - Teachers (English and Bilingual)
 - Case Managers
 - Employment specialists & prevocational trainers
 - Life and Parenting skills trainers
- Available weekly classroom hours
 - Types of classes:
 1. Academic
 2. Life/Parent Skills
 3. Pre-vocational
 4. Make up classes



Current Payment Structure



Enrollment Payments

- Paid per student after initial enrollment of 40 hours are completed
- Re-enrollments are not to exceed 10% of total enrollments for FY

Progress/outcome Payment(s) – per student

- 1 Progress payment per fiscal year
A “progress payment” is made when a student successfully completes two grade levels
- 1 Completion payment per fiscal year
A “completion payment” is made when a student receives either HSE or High School diploma
- 1 Placement payment per fiscal year
A “placement payment” is made when a student receives either Job placement or College acceptance



Provider Survey



The provider survey will be designed to gather statistical data over a period of 24 months. This data is used to help determine such things as utilization, class sizes, staffing, and length of time to achieve an outcome.

Although the survey is not available today, we anticipate distributing it in early July. Today, we are looking to generate a discussion around the survey topics, to help us better formulate our questions so that the survey can capture all the work you perform. The following slides will provide a look into these questions / topics.



Provider Survey



Program Hours of Operations

- How many hours a week is the program open?
Based on data received, the programs average 30 hours / week
Some programs were closer to 25 hours / week
- What days each week is the program open?
- Are there different hours of operation during the summer months?
- Does the program operate 52 weeks a year or are there certain times when it is closed due to vacation/holidays?

Summer break ~ Thanksgiving week ~ Christmas week



Provider Survey



Class Composition and Size

- Are the classes solely for YPP students, or do they include other students as well?
- How many students are in a class?
- Are the classes broken up by a grade level range, or does everyone, regardless of academic standing, fit into the same class?
- Is there a policy or process around making up missed classes?
- Are classes broken out any other way we are not considering?
- Is there a minimum class size?
- Based on the data gathered, the student to teacher ratios range from 3:1 – 15:1 with the average class size of 10:1.



Provider Survey



Staffing Considerations

- What is the make up of the staff?

The UFR data shows us that the programs average 3.8 FTE's

UFR Specialized Direct Care staff: Teacher (Line 16s)

UFR Non-Specialized Direct Care staff: Counselor (Line 28s)

Case worker / manager (Line 30s)

Direct care staff II (Line 33s)

UFR Support staff: Program Secretary / Clerical (Line 35s)

Maintenance (Line 36s)

Driver (Line 37s)

- In general, how are the programs managed?
- How are teachers compensated? Classroom hours?
- Are there any other staff specific to the YPP program?



Provider Survey



Enrollment through end goal

We would like to understand the length of time it takes from enrollment to achievement of HSE / Diploma / Job Placement / College Enrollment.

- What is the typical academic grade level of a YPP student at enrollment?
- On average, how many course hours does it take to achieve a progress payment?
- On average, how many course hours does it take to achieve a HSE / Diploma / Job Placement / College Enrollment?



Provider Survey



Sample survey to gather enrollment through end goal data

Student ID	July 2011	Aug 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011
Student 123	Attended	Attended	Attended	Enrolled did not attend
	Enrollment payment			
Student 456	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
				Progress payment
Student 789			Attended	
			<div>▼</div>	
			Enrollment payment	
			Progress payment	
			Outcome payment	



Questions/Feedback



Meeting notices will be posted on Chapter 257 website:

www.mass.gov/hhs/chapter257

Comments and questions regarding Chapter 257 process can be sent
to: EOHHSPOSPolicyOffice@state.ma.us