STAR Report (date submitted: 9/15/19 by Victor Moses)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**-**MCO’s continue to trend upward in use of 3rd party entities for auth and review in most states. Have noted an increase in denials for feeding/sensory services provided by OTs, but SLP denial has been low—suspect stronger documentation around oropharyngeal dysphagia by SLP has sustained the trend of relatively low SLP denials.

**-**Increase in number of states with legislation for telehealth services for SLP. South Dakota onboarded this spring with reimbursement on parity with in-person tx. Kentucky onboarded on 7/1. Virginia currently allows telehealth to be administered for school therapy but not yet the general community.

-Monitor for CMS proposal changes to language around access to services. STARS continue to report out data on waitlists for Medicaid eligible kids to receive services OR clients who have to travel extensive distances to receive servicers.

 -States are using this data to continue to make cases for inclusion for SLPs in telepractice.

-Clarification that Medicaid beneficiaries may be billed directly for uncovered services if there is a written agreement between client and provider. There is some subtle state by state variation. Details from Laurie Havens (STAR network coordinator) forthcoming.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WSLHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**-**Continue to advocate for inclusion of SLP services in WA telehealth WAC to allow for greater service delivery for our lower served communities.