

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Robert Johnston; Christina Krasovich; Angela Levin; Lindsay McCary; Katy Morgan; Dr. Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Nissan Bar-Lev; John Jahnke; Lindsay McCary
Date: 5/13/2021	Time Started: 10:02 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:00 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Meeting			Excused: Public Attendees: Michelle Schumacher (Waisiman Center) DHS State Staff: Andy Forsaith; Julia Thoe; Kat Van Hampler; Laura Zimmerman; Nancy Bills
			Presiding Officer: Dan Kramarz, Bureau of Children's Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Individual introductions of Council members.

Public Comments

None

Operational

Approval of February 11, 2021, meeting minutes will be approved at the next meeting due to a technical issue.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates

- DHS launched the Birth to 3 Program, [First 1,000 Days Wisconsin Child Find Campaign](#) in spring 2021, alongside a media toolkit so that counties, providers, partners, and other stakeholders can help spread awareness and promote early intervention.
- COVID-19 flexibilities are still in effect.
- Wisconsin approved COVID-19 vaccination authorization for children ages 12-15.
- [Children's Long-Term Support \(CLTS\) Waiver Renewal Initiative](#) will go live in January 2022. The waiver is open for public comment, and comments are due by June 4, 2021. Council members may provide written feedback via the [CLTS Waiver renewal inbox](#).
- [CLTS Program Waitlist Elimination Update](#)
 - Nearly 13,000 children are enrolled
 - Families enroll in an average of just over 50 days.

Council Member Updates

- Council member discussion comments included:
 - Christina asked if there were any prioritizations for the vaccination approval for children ages 12-15. None are known at this time.
 - Daysi had questions on if the [waitlist numbers for each county](#) were available.
 - Kevin shared concerns regarding law enforcement incidents/bodycams and maintaining a level of privacy with individuals on the spectrum and incidents becoming public record; feels Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws should be followed. Others shared that consideration of privacy and

transparency would be appreciated and that there should be greater emphasis on training in regards to de-escalation. It was decided this topic would be continued at a later date.

Governor Evers' 2021-2023 Biennial Budget–Andy Forsaith, DHS



Governor Evers
2021-2023 Biennial Budget

- Overview of provisions, the budget process, and what the governor is advocating for.
- Decisions will be made by the Finance Committee on what is in the budget.

Family Awareness and Access to Resources, Supports and Services

Medicaid Access Data–Julia Thoe, DHS

Medicaid's Behavioral Treatment benefit utilization

First quarter of 2021: January 1 through March 31

Note: Medicaid providers have up to 365 days from the date of service to submit claims.

- 392 members received treatment at the focused level
- 1,306 members received treatment at the comprehensive level
- The total number of members who received at least one service within the behavioral treatment benefit during the period is 2,226
- 38,777 hours of focused behavioral treatment provided
- 219,397 hours of comprehensive behavioral treatment provided

Medicaid's Behavioral Health Benefits Policy Section is intending to explore two initiatives within the behavioral treatment benefit:

- Concurrent billing: where a clinician provides supervision at the same time treatment is being provided, allowing Medicaid to reimburse for both staff.
- Group treatment procedure codes: behavioral treatment being provided in a group setting.

Regarding requirements to provide language interpreter, please review the following: [ForwardHealth Online Handbook Topic #219 Civil Rights Compliance \(Nondiscrimination\)](#)

Autism Diagnostic Evaluations – Michelle Schumacher, MSSW Family Navigator–Waisman Center

Overview of challenges to accessing diagnostics evaluations.



Governors Council
presentation 5-13-21

Council Member Discussion and Recommendations

Council member discussion comments included:

- Challenge to promote jobs for providers; shortage of staff in the industry.
- Are there materials that can be shared with school counselors regarding employment opportunities?
- Maybe meet with the Department of Public Education (DPI) in a future meeting or connect with Workforce Development.
- Offering high school internships could be one possibility; working side by side with behavior therapists.

MOTION made by Robert Johnston, seconded by Daysi Jiménez to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
Next meeting on August 12, 2021.

Prepared by: Laura Zimmerman on 5/13/2021.

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