

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Rose Cutting, Bob Johnston, Margaret Fairbanks, Alejandra , Nissan Bar-Lev, Daysi Jimenez, John Jahnke, Katy Morgan, Christina Krasovich, Lindsay McCary Excused: Becky Thompson, Kevin Scholz Public Attendees: DHS Staff: Deb Rathermel; Dan Kramarz; Nicole Miller; Carrie Dalgetty; Joseph Bouxa; Julia Thoe; Pam Lano
Date: 11/11/2021	Time Started: 10:02	Time Ended: 11:53	
Location: Zoom Meeting <a href="https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1609997739">https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1609997739</a>			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 8/12/2021 Meeting Minutes  
MOTION to approve minutes introduced by Christina Krasovich seconded Lindsay McCary. Motion passed.
- Approval of Proposed 2022 Meeting Dates
  - Proposed dates: February 10, 2022; May 12, 2022; August 11, 2022; November 10, 2022  
MOTION to approve 2022 meeting dates introduced by Nissan Bar Lev, seconded by Daysi Jimenez. Motion passed.

#### Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates

- Message from Governor's Health Equity Council- The Health Equity Council is interested in Autism council members attending the 12/17/21 meeting. More information is on the [Governor's Health Equity Council webpage](#).
- Updates from the Bureau of Benefits Policy–Julia Thoe
  - The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is continuing to explore additional supports for translation services.
  - There will be a temporary rate increase of 5% across a number of Medicaid benefits funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds update- Dan Kramarz
  - DHS has received enhanced funding to improve Medicaid programs.
- Medicaid Access Data: Behavioral Treatment Utilization–Julia Thoe

Data for third quarter of 2021: July 1 through September 30.

- 42,189 hours of focused behavioral treatment provided.
- 245,255 hours of comprehensive behavioral treatment provided.
- 404 members received treatment at the focused level.
- 1,443 members received treatment at the comprehensive level.
- 2,233 members received at least one service within the behavioral treatment benefit during the quarter.

- Presentation of data for behavioral treatment utilization from 2016 to 2020 according to place of services (POS) codes. Data for home, office, other, and school POS were discussed. The data show a steady increasing trend for services delivered with office as place of service. This is most frequently clinic or center based services.  
Council input:
  - Daysi Jimenez reports increased trend of providers staffing centers more instead of individual homes.
  - Christina Krasovich reports positive feedback from families on the opportunity for child to socially interact at centers, the ability to get physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and behavioral treatment (BT) all in one visit.
  - Lindsay McCary asked for data on telehealth utilization. DHS shared that complete telehealth data are not available for 2020-2021 as during the public health emergency providers were not required to use the telehealth code in claims. Data will be available after permanent telehealth policy is implemented.

### **Council Member Updates**

- Katy Morgan–Katy brought to the attention of the council current Wisconsin state law that allows health care providers to disqualify people with developmental disabilities from receiving organ transplants on the condition of their disability alone. Katy’s daughter testified during a hearing on changing this law in Wisconsin. A vote on the Wisconsin law is expected in the future.
- Nissan Bar Lev–Nissan shared that he is currently leading a workgroup looking at how to provide students with reading levels below their current grade level access to grade-level curriculum. The group is looking at a variety of assistive technology. Council members are advised to contact Nissan if they are interested in learning more.
- Bob Johnston–Bob shared that he has had success with gaining access to assistive technology with the services of a lawyer. Council members are advised to contact Bob if they are interested in the contact information.
- Daysi Jimenez–Daysi shared that she has been made aware of an opportunity at Children’s Hospital for non-tradition diagnosticians to receive special training in conjunction with Marquette University to improve accessibility to diagnosticians. Lindsay McCary that this work is connected to Project ECHO.
- Christina Krasovich–working with organizations across state to work with federal-level autism committee and asks state council members contribute ideas for questions.

### **Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program Provider Toolkit**

Carrie Dalgetty- Provider Relations Coordinator, presented on the [CLTS Provider Recruitment Toolkit](#).

### **Council Goal Setting for 2022**

- A discussion was held with the Council to solicit ideas for goal setting for the council for 2022. A vote will be held at the next Council meeting in February.
- Council member discussion on concerns and issues that the Council could focus on for 2022:
  - Margaret Fairbanks identified mental health and barriers with families during pandemic- already frustrated, fatigued, aren’t easily able to access applied behavior analysis (ABA) beyond school. Transition planning continues to be a challenge.
  - Lindsay McCary identifies provider training, lack of workforce able to serve mental health needs of this population. She shared ongoing work through the Waisman Center to address some of these issues. Discharge planning and transition into community needs improvement.
  - Christina Krasovich identified the need for options for immediate emergency/crisis response beyond 911.
  - Katy Morgan identified the need for a way to keep parents up to date on changes in the field.
  - Daysi Jimenez indicated that parents have share with her that there are mental health inpatient and outpatient treatment providers declining patients with an autism diagnosis.
  - Julia stated possibility of data on referrals and enrollments being accessible/transparent.
  - Margaret Fairchild – Identified the need for physicians to have a training or certification that makes them identifiable as proficient in serving children diagnosed with autism?

- Rose Cutting suggested a community connector model to connect families with autism screening services similar to the farmer wellness program.
- Bob Johnston would like to see increased coordination with individual affiliates and with national Autism Society of America to support initiatives they're organizing at a national basis.

**Unanimous Agreement to Adjourn**

Next meeting on Thursday, February 10, 2022

Prepared by: Joseph Bouxa on 11/11/2021.

