

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

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| Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council | | | Attending: Council Members: Christina Krasovich; Robert Johnston; Rose Cutting; Dr. Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Alejandra Apreza-King; John Jahnke; Vanesa Carmona-Lewis; Katy Morgan; Lindsay McCary; Kevin Scholz Excused: Margaret Fairbanks; Dan Kramarz Public Attendees: DHS State Staff: Nicole Miller; Jessica Holland; Julia Thoe; Katherine Moore; Laura Zimmerman |
| Date: 8/11/2022 | Time Started: 10 a.m. | Time Ended: 12 p.m. | |
| Location: Zoom Meeting https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1609596349 | | | Presiding Officer: Deb Rathemmel, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) |

Minutes

Public Comments

- No public comments

Operational

- Approval of the August 11, 2022, meeting minutes.
MOTION made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by Robert Johnston, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Motion approved unanimously

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates:

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Home and Community-Based Services (Nicole Miller, Bureau of Children's Services, or BCS)
 - \$30 million available to fund grants specific to home and community-based waiver participants
 - Applications are being taken now through September 12, 2022. Details of the grant opportunity are here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs-grantsopportunities.htm>
 - A help desk for questions on the grant opportunity is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Email: GrantsWIARPAHCS@pcgus.com; Phone: 833-660-2499
- Briefing on the No Wrong Door, Supporting Kids Together Initiative (Jessica Holland, BCS)
 - Cross divisional collaboration effort between Division of Medicaid Services, Division of Care & Treatment Services, and Division of Public Health
 - This project is looking to simplify access to information and resources related to specialty health care and support programs and helping families find the right next steps including a single phone number for families to call to be directed to the appropriate regional center
 - Overview of key activities including Branding and Marketing (with Pigorsch Media Design); Leveraging Technology; Strengthening Partnerships; and State Collaborative
 - Debbie Borquist-Conlon (BCS) is the contact for questions/input
- Updates from the Bureau of Benefits Policy (BBP)- Julia Thoe and Katherine Moore
 - Review of behavioral treatment (BT) benefit utilization in the first and second quarters of 2022
 - Upcoming behavioral treatment benefit projects exploring expanding benefit:
 - Implementation of two procedure codes that would allow for reimbursement for group treatment
 - Implementation of concurrent billing for two procedure codes to be reimbursed at the same time

Council Member Updates:

- Christina Krasovich – Approached the first responders in her community who will now be hosting an annual event for autism awareness. Wanted to share in the event other members wished to bring the same idea to their community.
- John Jahnke and other council members – Wanted to recognize and honor former council member, Nissan Bar-Lev for all his years and contributions to the council
- Daysi Jiménez – Asked for an update on the current Public Health Emergency (PHE). The PHE is currently in effect until 10/13/22. The federal government will provide states with a 60-day notice before ending. For further information on temporary policies related to the PHE:
 - CLTS and Birth to 3 Programs: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-county.htm>
 - ForwardHealth Members: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth.htm>

Council Discussion on Plan for Action on 2022-2023 Goals

- DHS presentation on role of advisory councils and proposal for achieving identified goals (Deb Rathemmel, BCS)
 - Established in 2004 and codified in 2005 in response to the transition of applied behavior analysis (ABA) services from a Medicaid card benefit to a CLTS Waiver service. In 2016, the benefit moved back to the Medicaid card.
 - Most councils have an annual or biannual communication (i.e., budget request).
 - The two goals identified by the Council for 2022-2023 are within scope:
 - Empower caregivers, children, and youth to navigate the system of autism supports and services
 - Increase provider capacity to support neurodiverse children and youth
- Council Member Discussion
 - Daysi Jiménez – Asked if bylaws could be changed and would the council be interested in reviewing and changing. They would need to be approved through the governor's office.
 - Robert Johnston – How do we measure the effectiveness of reaching the goals?
 - Rebecca Thompson – Brought up conversation in last meeting on topic of drafting a letter to the governor to communicate goals of the council. Would like to discuss main points and ideas that might go into the letter to the governor. It would be helpful to add concurrent billing to the letter since it would require budgetary action.
 - Katy Morgan – For her, goals are shifting and thinking about the advisory role of the Council. There are needs for conversations about things out of scope, so questioning where they should go to discuss these things.
 - Nicole Miller – Would like to recommend that over the next few months that if council members hear what people in the community are wanting and needing to bring those ideas to the next meeting.

MOTION made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by Lindsay McCary to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting on November 11, 2022.

Prepared by: Laura Zimmerman on 8/15/2022.