

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support Council			Attending: Council Members: Liz Hecht, Lisa Hanks, Barbara Katz, Pamela Hencke, Patti Becker, Mitch Hagopian, Beth Swedeen, Angela Radloff, Chris Hanten, Wendy Heyn, Lisa Stephan, Maddie Valent, Sandy Tierney, Kelly Blaschko, Cherie Purdy
Date: 10/13/2021	Time Started: 9:00 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:10 p.m.	Absent: Nissan Bar-Lev, Naomi Beahm, Todd Breaker, Kristal Knudtson, Kirsten Menningen, Katy Morgan-Davies, LaKesha Pettigrew, Walt Schalick
			Public Attendees: Kaylin Shaheen-Team Hope
			DHS State Staff: Deb Rathermel, Kate Johnson, Mary Schmierer, Becky Granger, Laura Knott, Lori Garsow, David Sorenson, Anna Fosdick, Nancy Bills, Dan Kramarz, Kelsey Vincent, Lydia Essenmacher, Becky Burns, Brooke Anderson, Laura Grulke-Rueter, Curtis Cunningham, Mary Schlaak-Sperry, Linda Hoeppner, Jessica Holland
Location: Zoom Conference Call			Presiding Officer: Liz Hecht, Chair
Minutes			

Council Member Updates and Announcements

- Last day to register for [Self-Determination conference](#) (Beth S.)
- Recruiting for members for Partners in Policy Making, looking for [family representation](#) (Beth S.)

Operational

- Approval of July 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes—Motion made by Barb Katz to approve the minutes as drafted; Liz Hecht seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) Program Access State and Materials

State Access Project materials were reviewed with the Council.

- The council reviewed information developed out of the direction from the 2019-20 BCS Program Access Initiative.
- BCS is creating three videos to communicate program access information for families.
 - Video scripts will be sent out for review and feedback is requested by October 26.
 - Video 1: welcome video with goal of orienting family to program and communicate core values of CLTS



Video 1 - Welcome
to Wisconsin's Progra

- Video 2: helps families understand eligibility and overview of the functional screen. Outlines what to expect and what happens after the functional screen.



Video 2 -
Understanding Eligibi

- Video 3: helps families understand the appeals process and how to handle disagreements. Explains their options, help families understand their options, and how to file an appeal with the Division of Hearing and Appeals (DHA).



Video 3 - How to
Solve Disagreements

- A toolkit of all standardized materials is being finalized. Rollout will include a presentation at January 13, 2022 teleconference to counties with a March 2, 2022, required implementation date.
 - Question about plain language for materials. Materials have gone through a number of groups to ensure the materials are in plain language, and materials aimed at families will be available in multiple languages.
 - Council recommendation is to make sure documents are easily accessible to families on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website as well as including a phone number for families to call

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Home and Community-Based Services Funds–Update

- ARPA contains a provision that states can get a 10% FMAP enhancement rate for services. Enhanced funding can be used to support and enhance the home and community-based service (HCBS) system for the state.
- Wisconsin's plan has been conditionally approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) which gives the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) authority to work on plan items.
- Nine categories
 - 5% rate increase for HCBS providers starting in CY22
 - Assisted Living Member Assessments
 - Protective Systems Enhancements
 - Direct Care Workforce Reforms and Analysis
 - Grants to enhance, expand or strengthen HCBS
 - Independent Living Pilots
 - Virtual Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) & ADRC Outreach and Education
 - Tribal Long-Term Care (LTC) Systems
 - Access for Children/ Disability Resource Center for Children and Families. This is an initiative that has been discussed by the council previously. Council members discussed the following suggestions:
 - Base it on the premise that there is “no wrong door” to services in the form of statewide access.
 - Provide assistance to help families navigate and connect to various services and resources.
 - Consider how DHS can actually implement this idea effectively when there is such a wide array and large scope; it gets difficult to actually implement when there are multiple systems and departments involved (i.e. social security, (Department of Public Instruction (DPI), etc.).
 - Enhance current services, such as the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Regional Centers or Well Badger.
 - Consider the role of a navigator for a family, what would this look like and how it could benefit families.
 - Create one phone number, a triage phone system, to call to access various programs and services.



DRCCF2021Ask.pdf



DRCCF_Outcomes_Sol
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DRCCFBudget.pdf



DRCCF Graphic.pdf

- Action item. Create a smaller group to develop a plan.

Functional Screen Updates and Outreach

- Updated instructions and level of care guidelines have been published and are being communicated to screeners statewide via teleconferences. Among many updates, the new instructions and guidelines clarified the eligibility process.

Public Health Emergency Unwinding

- Dependent on the federal continuation or ending of the public health emergency (PHE); the current PHE is ending on October 18, 2021 but is anticipated to be extended through December 31, 2021.
- The federal government will give states a 60-day notice to the end of the PHE and then 12 months to “unwind” flexibilities to adjust to normal policy and regulations; current flexibilities expected to be extended to 2022.
- All current program flexibilities will be in place until the end of the PHE. They are listed on the [CLTS COVID-19 Q&A webpage](#).
- There was discussion about the impact on families and ensuring families are aware of flexibilities ending.

Waiver Renewal Status Update

- While BCS is still in process of negotiating waiver approval with CMS, they have indicated with no concerns in getting waiver approved prior to January 1, 2022.
- The renewed waiver when approved is expected to be in effect from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2027.

CLTS Provider Toolkit Recruitment update

- BCS has created materials for local agencies to use in order to recruit more CLTS providers.
- Materials are available on DHS website and can be ordered for printed copies.

Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) Update

- As a follow-up to feedback provided during the July Council Meeting, BCS launched a survey to counties to inform local uses and needs for CCOP; this replaces the annual CCOP Plan requirement.
- Survey information will inform future CCOP planning.

BCS Staff Updates

- Becky Granger accepted Deputy Director position and started in June 2021.
- David Sorenson is the new Policy and Initiatives Section Manager, effective September 2021.

Council Member Sharing and Discussion

Members shared the following thoughts and experiences:

- Counties seem to be issuing appropriate denial and notices of action (NOA) more.
- Families may struggle during transition from children to adult services without clear information, especially when items and services being requested are not finalized prior to transition. There was also an emphasis about introducing transition before age 14 to include foreshadow steps and planning.
- Guardianship concerns and the challenges within this process for families.
- Inconsistent authorization practices by counties.

Continuous Enrollment and Dashboard

BCS staff provided the following information about state level enrollment and data:

- How to access [dashboard](#) via the DHS website.
- Data from the dashboard which includes each county’s CLTS enrollment data and statistics.
- Statewide, children are waiting about 2.5 months although there is variability across the state.
 - The goal is for a child to wait less than 60 days to enroll.
- Reviewed BCS’s efforts with counties that have longer enrollment timelines, including efforts to address staff capacity issues.

2022 Meeting Schedule

- January 12, April 13, July 13, October 12
- CLTS Council is looking for [family member participants](#).

Action Items

- Create a workgroup for Disability Resource Center–ARPA initiative.

- Continue discussion about transitions out of CLTS.

Motion for Adjournment: Made by Barb Katz, seconded by Liz Hecht. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Alex Cammilleri on 10-13-21.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 1/12/2022