

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support Council			Attending: Liz Hecht, Chairperson; Nissan Bar-Lev; Patti Becker; Kelly Blaschko; Kerry Blondheim; Mitch Hagopian; Lisa Hanks; Pamela Hencke, Wendy Heyn; Barbara Katz; Tammy Lewan; David McGinley; Katy Morgan-Davis; Marianne Novella; Angela Radloff; Walt Schalick; Tracey Stanislawski; Lisa Stephan; Beth Swedeen; Sandra Tierney; Elizabeth Williams Excused: Lisa Hanks Absent: Kristal Knudtson; Cherie Purdy Public Attendees: Vicky Gunderson DHS Staff: Deb Rathermel; Sarah Kate Johnson; Sue Larsen; Lori Garsow; Gary Roth; Debbie Borquist-Conlon; Lydia Essenmacher; Jessica Holland; Linda Hoepfner; Becky Burns; Laura Knott
Date: 4/13/2022	Time Started: 9:00 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:30 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Conference Call			Presiding Officer: Liz Hecht, Chair
Minutes			

Operational:

Approval of January 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes



CLTS Council
Meeting Minutes Dr

Motion to approve by Walt Schalick and seconded by Mitch Hagopian; motion passed unanimously.

Membership Status and Recruitment Efforts:

Currently the Council has two openings: one provider position, typically filled by Milwaukee County and one parent position. There was a brief discussion about recruitment and lack of representation from northwest Wisconsin.

Welcome new members

Public Comment: None

2023-25 Biennial Budget Inputs

Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) budget item

- Fully funding Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS): The CLTS Program is currently legislatively funded but not an entitlement program.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) continuation funding: Such as No Wrong Door was discussed by the Council. Council supports recommendation to advance.

Council questions/discussion and action steps

- Reviewed 2019-2021 Biennial budget recommendations
- Previous budget recommendations included fully funding CLTS and a Disability Resource Center for Children and Families. The identified goals of center are advocacy support, benefits counseling, and a one number contact for families looking for help.
- Council also discussed and supports HealthCheck Other Services policy to promote greater awareness and access.
- A few members of the Council subcommittee agreed to draft Council recommendations in the next month. Members will include Liz Hecht, Patti Becker, Tracy Stanislawski, Sandy Tierney, David McGinley, Pamela Hencke, Kerry Blondheim, and Liz Williams.

Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) Program Access Project (Phase I):

- A summary of the standardized materials, implementation resources, and related [memo](#) was shared.
- The outcome of work is to provide a seamless statewide experience in eligibility, enrollment, and intake.

Key activities:

- Katie Beckett Medicaid enrollment and access improvement status was shared.
- The outcome of this work to-date has been a shortened number of days to determination with a Katie Beckett Medicaid eligibility specialist to an average of 22 days.
- Efforts continue to seek to shorten the length of time in disability determination process.

Council questions/discussion:

- Periodic update letters would be helpful for families while waiting
- Provide status update to Council in a future meeting

No Wrong Door- Supporting Kids Together (BCS Program Access Project, Phase II)

A status update of the BCS Phase II Program Access Project was provided.

Key activities: Branding and marketing; Leveraging technology; Strengthening partnerships; Resource hub

Council questions/discussion:

- ARPA funding timeline – end of March 2024
- Launch this project phase in the next year
- Family-to-family connection resource fit in project
- Resource hub vision – in development

**Program Projects for Council Status and Input
Aging Out Transition Preparedness Project**

A status update and council input related to transition planning for participants aging out of the CLTS Program.

Key activities: Improving support of eligible youth and their families in a timely transition from CLTS to Adult Long-Term Care (ALTC) by partnerships with Family Care, IRIS, and the Office of Resource Center Development/Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

Council Questions/discussion:

- Knowledge limitations and inconsistencies
- Families could use help with understanding adult forms of Medicaid, supported decision making and associated tools, eligibility, and access to ALTC.
- Helpful for families to obtain this information over time and well before 17 ½ yrs. of age.
- Issues with uncompleted services as a child ages out from CLTS to ALTC
- Divisional of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) roles and supports in transition are complex for families
- Confusion with Medicaid cost shares when trusts are involved
- Seek transparency in understanding adult service providers and networks in youth transitions
- Look at role of ADRC benefits specialists in providing support for youth who have an income source
- Seek input from medical providers/systems
- Supports coordination with ADRCs, ALTC providers, and CLTS programs

Parental Payment Limits (PPL) Project

Key activities: Standardize PPL instructions and implementation requirements in CLTS and Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) across county waiver agencies so PPL is fairly and equitably applied statewide, reasonably operational for CWAs, and readily understood by families.

Council Questions/discussion:

- Variability of PPL collection across the state
- Improve transparency of the PPL determination metric
- Consider parents who may be prohibited from disclosing their income and therefore need to take maximum PPL amount
- Clarify exclusions for PPL include service coordination, childcare, and program administrative costs
- Considerations for financial hardship criteria were offered

Medicaid Benefit Information Sharing/ Status Updates

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Medicaid Benefit (Bureau of Benefits Policy)



member-transition-
presentation.pdf

Key activities: NEMT is a Medicaid benefit to help members get rides for Medicaid-covered services. The state's provider is now Veyo and has an advisory council to address operations and provide feedback. Veyo also has technology to support member's needs through a mobile-friendly portal.

Council Questions/discussion:

- Availability of scheduling rides with Veyo for minors online vs. by phone – will address with Veyo
- Mileage reimbursement for families is a responsibility of Veyo. Information is found on Veyo's member resources page
- Reasonable transport accommodations are to be met by Veyo when other household passengers need to accompany
- Promote understanding for CLTS families
- Level of need forms signed by medical professionals are aimed to decrease "grilling" by NEMT provider
- Regan Batterman shared an additional information PowerPoint following the meeting to answer some council questions.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Council Questions/discussion:

- Council members shared that some Medicaid Personal Care Agencies indicate they are not aware of EVV.
- EVV can be confusing for families.
- EVV is not fully implemented in this soft launch period; a hard launch date not yet determined.

BCS Status Updates:

COVID-19 Unwinding – status of Public Health Emergency and Waiver Flexibilities

- COVID-19 temporary policy and operational flexibilities are still in place and will remain in effect until DHS announces any federal end dates.
- Transitioning from the temporary flexibilities back to permanent policy, or in other words what the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) calls unwinding the flexibilities, will begin in the month after the public health emergency ends.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is thoroughly and thoughtfully coordinating unwinding plans for all programs administered by the Division of Medicaid Services; unwinding will take place throughout the year after the end of the federal Public Health Emergency.
- States are expected to receive 60-days advance notice of the end of the Public Health Emergency by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CLTS 2022-2026 Waiver Implementation status

Council Questions/discussion:

More information on the new waiver definitions can be found in these publications:

- [CLTS Supports and Services at a Glance](#)
- [Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Manual for the CLTS Waiver Program](#)

Council Member Sharing and Discussion:

- The Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is hosting a *Supported Decision-Making* workshop at the 2022 Circles of Life conference.
- WI Facets parent organization can be a resource for parents in helping to navigate the complexities of multiple services such as Medicaid, CLTS, and school-based services.
- Dane County is working on an initiative to support access of providers for families whose primary language is not English.
- Providers continue to struggle with direct care staff shortages and would like to brainstorm how to handle family commitment/cancellations.
- While access to some Medicaid benefits is still challenging, the openness to conversation has been helping in imagining Medicaid benefits beyond its traditional framework.
- Disability Rights Wisconsin has been receiving an increase in referrals to assist with families for expulsions of children for behavioral concerns. There is an association with expulsions and the ability for the child to read.

Council Exploration Discussion:**Parents as Paid Caregivers**

Council discussed the focus of discussion at a future meeting and current info that would be helpful in that discussion.

- Explore state and federal laws for permanent policy provisions.
- Web searches indicate that some states appear to be allowing for parents to be paid to support their child's needs.
- Consider effort in Wisconsin to generate state dollars to support parents as paid caregivers.
- The following issues were identified as reasons to support parents as paid caregivers:
 - Workforce shortages. There is a broad spectrum in the shortage of supports that has worsened in the last two-three years resulting in challenges in finding adequate caregivers to support identified needs
 - Inability for the child to attend school
 - Child at risk of being placed out of the home
 - Temporary timeframe guidelines
- The council will continue this discussion in the future.

CLTS Council 2022 Meeting Dates: July 13 and October 12**Motion to Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn by Barbara Katz and seconded by Nissan Bar-Lev; motion passed unanimously
The Council meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Lori Garsow on 4/13/2022.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 7/13/2022