

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support Council		Attending: Council Members: Patti Becker, Kelly Blaschko, Kerry Blondheim, Toto Chanthavixay, Anne Dent, Lisa Hanks, Pamela Hencke, Wendy Heyn, Barbara Katz, Tammy Lewan, David McGinley, Katy Morgan-Davies, Marianne Novella, Cherie Purdy, Angela Radloff, Walt Schalick, Tracey Stanislawski, Lisa Stephan, Beth Swedeen, Sandra Tierney, Patricia Williams
Date: 2/8/2023	Time Started: 9:00 am	Time Ended: 1:26 pm
Location: Zoom Conference Call		Excused: Beth Swedeen, Elizabeth (Liz) Williams, Absent: Kristal Knudtson
		Public Attendees: Maria Campos, Leigh Bolender, Lisa Reindl, Cindy Desch
		DHS State Staff: Deb Rathermel, Rebecca Granger, Beth Gullickson, Debbie Borquist-Conlon, Jessica Holland, Tara Sommersberger, Constance Buckner, Alex Cammilleri, Susan Seibert, Lori Garsow, Maureen Thomas, Becky Burns, Michelle Lund
		Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel

**Minutes**

**Council Member updates and announcements Operational**

- Disability Advocacy Day on March 23, 2023  
<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00996.pdf>[www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/index.php/events/](http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/index.php/events/)
- Approval of October 12, 2022, Draft Meeting Minutes.
  - Approved by Kerry Blondheim, seconded by Pamela Hencke
- New Members:
  - Anouvong “Toto” Chanthavixay-Milwaukee County Representative
  - Anne Dent- Parent Representative
  - Patricia Williams- Parent Representative
- Next steps for council chair vacancy
  - Looking for nominees for council chair
  - Reviewed Chairperson Roles and Responsibilities

**Public Comments**

- No public comments were provided

**Briefing on Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023 and impact on provisions related to the Public Health Emergency Unwinding, including CLTS Appendix K**

- Consolidated Appropriations Act
  - Spending bill passed in December 2022 and included changes to temporary flexibilities that have been in place since 2020
  - The passing of the CAA now sets an end date for MA continuous enrollment
- Public Health Emergency (PHE)

- The PHE gives certain flexibilities to states to respond to emergencies affecting the public's health
- PHE is planned to end on May 11, 2023
- CLTS implications
  - Functional screens will resume in June 2023 and will take place over a 12-month period
  - State Medicaid benefit redeterminations will also resume in June 2023
  - Resuming disenrollments that have been delayed during the PHE
  - All other temporary policies established through the Appendix K will transition back to the permanent policy no later than six months after the expiration of the PHE
- Staying Informed
  - DHS will host biweekly policy stakeholder calls to inform community of updates
  - COVID-19 Unwinding Update listserv
  - DHS webpage: [Keeping Wisconsin Covered | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- Council Discussion
  - Question regarding resuming all in-person services and whether there will be flexibility to continue remote services. Answer: there are some services that will continue to be provided via remote service delivery

### **Divisions of Medicaid Services (DMS) and Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) Structure Overview and Program Specialist Role and Responsibility**

- Reviewed organizational chart for DHS-Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)
  - DMS is Organized by functional areas
    - Benefits and Service Delivery
    - Systems Fiscal and Operations
    - Eligibility and Enrollment
- Bureau of Children's Services
  - Administers 8 programs
  - Organized by 5 sections
    - Program Access and Intake
    - Policy and Initiatives
    - Program Improvements and Quality Outcomes
    - Internal Operations and System Support
    - Program Operations and Technical Assistance
      - Reviewed organization of section and regional assignments: [Implementation and Technical Assistance Team Assignment Map \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)
      - Role of this team is to work with counties directly to operationalize programs. Children and Family Program Specialists can also work with families and stakeholders to help resolve issues and concerns.

### **CLTS Support and Service Coordinator Training and Waiver Basics Project**

- DHS is required by the federal government to set provider qualifications including support and service coordinators (SSCs)
  - Requirements include training, experience, and education to ensure all participants receive services in a safe and effective manner
- All SSCs must complete specified trainings
  - DHS waiver basics training course
    - Consists of 9 chapters and links to systems, libraries, and communication tools
    - SSCs must complete the SSC Certification Exam and get a score of 80% or higher
  - Mandated Reporter Online Training
- BCS is working to update the SSC Training
  - Updating CLTS program policy
  - Including cultural competency trainings
  - Opportunities to practice Deciding Together and the overall philosophy of CLTS

- “Knowledge checks” for SSCs
  - Updating tracking and oversight of SSC completion
- Council Feedback
  - The need to have reflective practice and consultation with other colleagues/supervisors
  - Incorporating adult learning principles
  - Safety training especially for in-home visiting
  - Unconscious bias assessment/Breaking the Bias training
  - Consideration for refresher trainings for ongoing SSCs
  - Diversity Trainings
  - Developing a pathway for parents with lived experience to be SSCs

### **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Project-Council Briefing and Discussion**

- EPSDT is a Medicaid healthcare benefit that provides screening, preventative care, and treatment services to members under 21 years old
- HealthCheck Other Services (HCOS)-Wisconsin’s approach to EPSDT
  - Gives flexibility to cover services not generally covered under Wisconsin Medicaid
  - Goal is that these services would improve, prevent, or maintain member’s status
  - Five years ago, DMS launched a member and provide awareness campaign to improve awareness, education, and provide resources on this benefit
- Goal of current HCOS project is to clarify benefit, increase awareness, and further develop resources and outreach to optimize utilization
  - [HealthCheck: Preventive Health Care for Children and Young Adults Through Age 20 | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- Council discussion and feedback:
  - Dental and vision coverage through Medicaid and challenges in accessing this
    - Find a Provider Tool: [Directory Search \(wi.gov\)](#)
  - Importance of continued outreach to help providers understand HCOS
  - Prescription coverage as it applies to HCOS
  - Families and members can reach out to the Medicaid Field Representatives which are delegated by county assignment [Assigned Professional Field Representatives by County June 2022 \(wi.gov\)](#)

### **Bureau of Children’s Services Status Update**

- New BCS/DHS Staff
  - Beth Gullickson, Section Manager for the Program Operations and Technical Assistance Section
  - Kirsten Johnson, Appointed Secretary for Department of Health Services
  - Jamie Kuhn, Appointed Medicaid Director
- No Wrong Door-Supporting Kids Together (NWD-SKT)
  - Goal of this project is to support families to easily access and get connected to services
  - The Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS), The Division of Care and Treatment Services and the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) is working together for this work.
  - The project is developing a visionary brand that captures the breadth and depth of services available, working with external media vendor to achieve this
    - Conducted focus group and two surveys, 1 for families, 1 for professionals to help inform this work
  - Children with Special Health Care Needs Regional Centers will be getting a single toll-free number for families to call and then will be directed to their appropriate regional center
  - Government partners (DHS, DCF, DPI) will collaborate to strategize new ways to have a more coordinated approach to provide resources and services to this population
- Parental Payment Limit (PPL) Memo and Materials
  - Counties have begun to operationalize PPL policy changes for 2023
  - PPL resources: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-03342>

- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Technical Amendment, Enrollment Projections
  - Technical Amendment related to needing to increase DHS enrollment projections
  - A copy of the technical amendment will be available to view at the following webpages:
    - 1915(c): <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/clts-1915c-renewal.pdf>
    - 1915(b)(4): <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/clts-1915b4-application.pdf>

### **2023 BCS Projects Summary**

- COVID-19 Flexibilities Unwinding
  - Transition from COVID flexibilities to standard operations in Medicaid programs
- HCBS ARPA No Wrong Door-Supporting Kids Together
  - Branding and marketing access solution for children with special needs
- BCS Councils
  - Process improvement for council members support and communications
- Staff Engagement
  - Targeted actions to workforce engagement

### **2023 CLTS/CCOP Projects Summary- Potential and/or Planned 2023 Project for Council Input**

- CCOP/CLTS Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Re-baseline
  - Revisit MOE distribution and CCOP allocation alignments
- CLTS Provider Registration program integrity
  - Process improvement to provider registration standards
- CLTS Waiver Basics Revitalization
  - Overhaul waiver basic training and modality
- Data analysis for CLTS Program population with mental health needs
  - Exploratory inquiry into the experience of Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) participants
- Childcare benefit policy and rates clarification
  - Policy and operational clarification, including rate review
- Level 5 Review and Approval Process Improvement including Max Fee Rate
  - Revise roles and responsibilities and address CLTS allowable rates
- Training for Unpaid Caregivers policy and billing clarification
  - Address access to conferences and processes for authorizing

### **Council member sharing and discussion-emerging issues**

- Reviewed council operating agreement
- Input related to the need to increase reimbursement for CLTS services/providers
  - There was a 5% rate increase for CLTS services providers in 2022 as part of ARPA HCBS rate increase
- Implementation of services and ensuring consistency statewide
- Paying parents as caregivers

### **Council Priorities for 2023**

- Consideration around CLTS becoming an entitlement program
- Training and supporting support and service coordinators in delivering equitable and consistent services statewide
- Revisiting CLTS rates for potential increases

### **Wrap-Up and Action Items (Next Meeting)**

- Council chair opening and continued work to fill this vacancy
- Next meeting is May 3, 2023, and scheduled to be virtual
  - Following meetings: August 9<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned, motioned by Walt Schalick and seconded by Pamela Hencke

Prepared by: Alexandra Cammilleri on 2/8/2023.

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