

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Council		Attending: Wendy Heyn (Chair), Patti Becker, Kelly Blaschko, Kerry Blondheim, Anouvong "Toto" Chanthavixay, Anne Dent, Lisa Hanks, Barbara Katz, David McGinley, Katy Morgan-Davies, Marianne Novella, Cherie Purdy, Angela Radloff, Lisa Stephan, Seth Sweeden, Sandra Tierney, Elizabeth (Liz) Williams, Windsor Wrolstad	
Date: 2/14/2024	Time Started: 9:00 AM	Time Ended: 12:30 PM	Excused: Pamela Hencke, Walt Schalick, Tracey Stanislawski,  Absent: Kristal Knudtson, Patricia Williams  Public Member: Danielle Tolzmann
Location: Zoom Conference Call		Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel	

**Minutes**

**Welcome**

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introductions
- Council Members Updates and Announcements
  - Beth Sweden updated the Council:
    - Register for Disability Advocacy Day March 20 at <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/2024/02/05/disability-advocacy-day-2024/>
    - Register for “Let's Talk About Rights” Webinar at <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/2024/02/05/living-well-know-your-rights-webinar-for-providers/>
- Approve Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes:
  - Katy Morgan-Davies to approve.
  - Angela Radloff seconded. Motion passed.

**Public Comments:**

- No public comments.

**CLTS Council:**

- Charge, Bylaws, Operating Principles. Motion to adopt updated.
  - Revision to the language in the charge to include: *“Authority of the Council to advise, guide, and provide recommendations”*
    - Kerry Blondheim to approve.
    - Kelly Blaschko seconded. Motion passed.

**HCBS ARPA Project Briefing:**

- **HCBS ARPA Summit October 7 & 8:** Laura Grulke-Rueter, Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) Communications Specialist:
  - Laura Grulke-Rueter shared an overview of the [HCBS Innovation Grants](#) funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Two rounds of funding awarded a total of 158 grants and distributed a total of \$29.6 million. Of those, 43 grants and \$11 million were supporting the CLTS population.
  - The HCBS Innovation Grant Summit will be held on October 7 and 8, 2024 in Madison, Wisconsin. The purpose of the Summit is to celebrate achievements, share successes, and learn how to sustain these efforts through replication and future initiatives. Virtual attendance will be available as well as limited

availability for in-person attendance. Pre-registration will be sent via email to fill out a short survey to express interest.

- **Round 2 ARPA Projects:** Dan Kramarz, Division of Medicaid Services (DMS), Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) Section Manager
  - Dan Kramarz shared information on Round 2 ARPA Projects. Due to availability of unspent ARPA funds, BCS was able to implement four additional. The four additional projects are:
    - **CLTS Family and Participant Handbook:** Write and distribute a handbook specific to families enrolled in CLTS.
    - **BCS Conference 2024:** BCS is organizing an annual conference for all program partners to increase understanding of individuals who do care planning and coordination for children’s programs.
    - **CLTS Waiver Basic Training:** designing an online supplemental training for SSC to build on their waiver basics.
    - **HCBS Leadership Scholarships (UW-Green Bay):** scholarships to enhance SSC and county waiver agency staff capacity and leadership skills.

#### **Council Discussion on HCBS Round 2 ARPA Projects:**

- A council member asked how the State is ensuring family friendly language in the creation of the CLTS Family and Participant Handbook. The State shared their plan to utilize DMS Comms Team to ensure plain language is used and accessible design.
- A council member inquired if families will be presenting at the BCS Conference that have lived experience. BCS shared that they have no yet solidified conference topics or structure yet, but once topics have been determined, they will reach out to appropriate participants to attend and present. Council members would like an opportunity to provide feedback on topics at the next CLTS Council meeting in May.
- A council member suggested incorporating family input into the Waiver Basic Training for how topics should be explained to families.
- A council member suggested there be a list of all potential available services in the CLTS Family and Participant Handbook.
  - In response to this, a council member shared the FVW CLTSW Fact Sheet #7 with a list of things that might be covered under CLTSW: <https://familyvoiceswi.org/resource-library/7-what-services-might-be-covered/>
- A council member requested a section be added to the CLTS Family and Participant Handbook that addressed parental fees. Families would benefit from having more information and clearer understanding of the billing structure.

#### **Introduction to Medicaid Director: Bill Hanna**

- The new Medicaid Director, Bill Hanna, had an opportunity to introduce himself to the Council and share about his professional background.
- Bill shared recognition for the interest of the council in supporting timely enrollment. Bill informed the Council of the hearing today that will vote on two items: 1. Eliminating the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for counties in the next biennium, and 2. Adding language into statute that requires a child receives services within 90 days of referral to ensure timely services. The second priority is to utilize Wisconsin Wayfinder to help families know where to go earlier.

#### **START Project:** Jackie Neurohr, Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) START Consultant

- Jackie Neurohr provided an overview of Phase 2 of the START Project. The objectives of the project are to: Improve crisis services, expand training and education to providers, increase availability of outpatient and preventative mental health services, improve coordination between service systems, and improve supports
- There are 5 subcommittees with 15-20 participants to develop recommendations around assigned theme. Each subcommittee launched a survey to get input on their recommendations from the work group. Surveys were posted on START webpage and each subcommittee received around 150 responses. Initial recommendations were submitted on January 5, 2024. Formal recommendations cannot be shared at this time and will be shared when the report is published. The anticipated date of the final report is late March/early April 2024.

**CLTS Program Data:** Dan Kramarz, Division of Medicaid Services (DMS), Bureau of Children's Services (BCS)  
Section Manager

- **Enrollment & Disenrollment:**
  - *Enrollment:* Continual growth from 2021 to 2023 of newly enrolled. On average, 430 children are newly enrolled each month into CLTS. Around 2,250 children funded, but not enrolled in December 2023.
  - *Disenrollment:* Main reasons for disenrollment are transition to ALTC and no longer accepting services.
- **2023 Appeals:**
  - *Total Number of Appeals:* 89 (70 service appeals and 19 eligibility appeals)
  - *CLTS Appeal Decisions:* Of the 89 appeals, most were dismissed, meaning DHA agreed with original decision made by the county. Most of the remaining appeals are still awaiting final decisions.
- **# Registered CLTS Provider**
  - Total of 2,054 initially qualified providers in the CLTS Provider Registry
    - 73% are fully approved
  - In 2023, 645 new providers were initially approved (473 agencies and 172 sole proprietors)

**Council Discussion on CLTS Program Data:**

- There was a discussion on the impact of the PHE Unwinding on disenrollment rates. Data showed large disenrollment at the onset of the public health emergency unwind.

**Council member sharing and discussion:**

- Anne Dent shared she had recently joined a research group and inquired about potential participation the research study on mobility aids. Participants will be asked to answer questions. The research is focused innovative technology advances to support the disabled community.
- David McGinley shared the challenges he faced when trying to get services covered under HealthCheck Other. He appreciated the help he got from BCS to understand the benefit and would share his learning with others if needed.
- Lisa Stephan shared how some of her team members spoke to doctors on HealthCheck Other and found that doctors were still confused. She stressed the importance of discussing this process to help families navigate eligible coverage and increase physicians' knowledge.
- Sandy Tierney shared her difficulties in filling out the Katie Beckett Renewal Form. She indicated that the form required all diagnoses be listed with specific detail. It would be helpful to have service coordinators assist families in this process to alleviate confusion and frustration.

**2024 Prioritization:**

- Deb RATHERMEL shared information on the Bureau's annual prioritization in areas of focus, compliance, and systemic change for 2024. The presentation highlighted the Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) overarching projects, CLTS-related projects, and projects outside of BCS that impact the CLTS population.
- CLTS-related projects were grouped into three focus areas: family facing, compliance, and program improvements. An overview of the projects within each focus area, including:
  - *Family Facing:* transition preparedness, participant handbook, enrollment timeliness protocol, waiver basics support
  - *Compliance:* Third Party Administrator (TPA) transition, foster care funding, HCBS setting rule monitoring, CLTS provider registry integrity
  - *Program Improvements:* Utilization data analysis

**Council Discussion on 2024 Prioritization:**

- A council member inquired about the rationale for the TPA transition project. Deb shared that the project aims to transfer from our current vendor that does Medicaid billing to a new vendor. Included in this project are user group of counties to test out the new system as well as provider forums to receive provider feedback. The change is set to initiate in July 2025 with a year-long ramp up period from existing vendor to new payment system. The goal is for individuals to receive timely reimbursement.

**Wrap-Up and Action Items:**

- 2024 Meeting Dates: May 8, 2024 meeting will be in-person at The Holiday Inn at The American Center in Madison, WI. More information will be sent out to Council members for attendance and hotel accommodations.
- [Katie Beckett Renewal Flyer](#): Children need Medicaid to be in CLTS and families need to secure their Medicaid to receive services. If there are any concerns about eligibility, the eligibility phone number on the flyer can answer questions. Please share the flyer with others that might be it helpful

**Motion to adjourn:** Barbara Katz to approve. Lisa Stephan seconded at 11:20 AM.

Prepared by: Tessa Freedberg on 2/14/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 5/8/2024