

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: IRIS Advisory Committee			Attending: Anne Karch, Fil Clissa, James Valona, Jason Glozier, Kathi Miller, Molly Bandt, Rachel Messenger, Rosie Bartel, Sue Urban
Date: 1/24/2023	Time Started: 9:32am	Time Ended: 12:40pm	
Location: Zoom Webinar			Presiding Officer: Christian Moran, DHS, Director Bureau of Programs and Policy, Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director of Quality and Oversight
Minutes			

Members absent: Martha Chambers

DHS Staff present: Alicia Boehme, Amy Chartier, Ann Lamberg, Christian Moran, Christine See, Daniel Bush, Grant Cummings, Kyle Novak, Leon Creary, Sheldon Kroning, Katie Kelnhofer, Steve Gress, Shelly Glenn

Meeting Call to Order – Christian Moran

- Meeting was called to order at 9:32am
- Motion to approve minutes by Sue. Seconded by Rosie. Motion carried.

Department Updates – Christian Moran, Alicia Boehme, Sheldon Kroning

- Christian provided department updates including announcing the new Medicaid Director Jamie Kuhn, CMS approval of the Statewide Transition Plan, committee member recruitment, completion of all IRIS provider agreements, and solicitation of feedback for the 2024 provider agreements.
 - Committee inquired about the possibility of in-person meetings throughout the state
 - Feedback that it is difficult to have a meeting this long in the middle of a workday
 - Committee inquired about timing of appointing new members and if prior applications would be considered
- Sheldon provided an update regarding Consumer Direct ending services at the end of January 2023
- Alicia provided a status on the START initiative
- Christian address a request received from the Survival Coalition regarding a plan language guide for IRIS onboarding
- There was a request for a topic regarding usual and customary last fall

Fiscal Update – Dan Bush

- Dan provided updates on the automated monthly rate of service project and an IBA update on the functional screen application.
 - Committee inquired when revised budget statements would be available and expressed concerns regarding the length of time it has taken to complete
 - Budget statement process wrap around will be provided at future meeting
 - Committee asked if impact on BAs will be tracked
 - Dan indicated they would be, but it is a larger project and will take more time

ARPA Update – Christian Moran

- Christian provided updates on the Staff Stability Survey, Direct Care Certification and Registry, Independent Living Pilot and ARPA grants for round 2
 - Kevin Coughlin will present a draft of the Direct Care Certification website in March
 - Committee requested feedback on whether AFH workers and personal care workers would receive appropriate credentials in the Direct Care Certification program

- Committee requested clarification on the focus of ARPA Grant funding for round two
 - Christian provided further clarification later in the meeting

Public Health Emergency Unwinding Update – Ann Lamberg

- Updates have been presented at multiple forums, and the process is being developed. Reviews will occur over the next 14 months with participants receiving notice 45 days prior to review.

Ombudsman Update and Review – Kathi Miller, Leslie Stewart

- Kathi and Leslie reviewed their presentation for the committee
 - Committee provided feedback on a specific situation where services were reduced without notification, DHS staff asked to be notified if this ever happens
 - Committee inquired regarding the status of background check issues with criminal records, DHS staff advised it had been reviewed and will need to be approved by the Governor's Office
 - Committee member requested the data spreadsheet the Ombudsman used previously

Public Comment

- Ramsey Lee thanked the committee for their work. He thanked Kathi and Leslie for their presentation. He expressed concerns regarding the EVV hard launch. Ramsey added he would like to become a member of the committee and has submitted his application.
- Julie Burish is concerned with the ICA caseloads and turnover rates. She asked if DHS was aware of the high caseload, and if so, what are they doing about it? She asked that this be reviewed and addressed for the next contract as it is negatively impacting participants.
- Anne Rabin provided comment on the Direct Care and Certification for care workers pilot and process. She described difficulty she had in registering as a provider on the micro board.
- Adam Brabender said that he would like to see IRIS allow for co-payments for dental providers.
- James Endres stated there has been a worker shortage for some time. He expressed concern that rates were raised for personal care workers and not supportive care workers. He would like to see that those rates be made the same.

Merger Conversation – Alicia Boehme

- Alicia provided details on the public comment received during the listening sessions on 12/14/2022 and 12/15/2022. DHS is now organizing verbal and written feedback to review for solutions. The website will be updated with an FAQ section. Link for feedback will be sent to committee.
 - No committee feedback

IRIS Certification – Katie Kelnhofer

- Katie provided a summary of the current process and pending changes. This process used to involve two separate documents and is now going to be merged into one document. Goal is to get the criteria published online. Historically it has been paper submissions. Committee will be emailed after the meeting for feedback.
 - Committee requested this as an agenda item for March

Timesheets – Sheldon Kroning

- DHS will be moving toward and in and out timesheet to assist with identifying fraud and neglect complaints as well as providing more detailed information regarding services performed. Current timesheets only define waiver services. There will be separate timesheets for live-in caregivers and non live-in caregivers.
 - Committee requested a soft launch prior to a hard launch.
 - Concern was expressed regarding non-payment of workers. Please make sure caregivers are paid.
 - Burden is on the worker and the participants. There are a lot of new changes for participants, so please consider training for both workers and participants.

Policy and Topic Tracker – Amy Chartier

- Amy reviewed the current policy and topic tracker
 - Committee expressed concern with rolling out the Service Provider Agreements too quickly
 - Nothing has changed regarding credentialing requirements

Policy Update – Amy Chartier, Kyle Novak

- Amy reviewed the EVV policy language draft and associated exceptions for newly added participants and for power outages.
- Kyle reviewed the Budget Amendment process and discussed the final round of feedback received. The initial drafting period has been shifting due to the comments received. This will be a thoughtful and intentional approach and will elongate the process a bit. It will allow the final product to be completed sooner.
 - No committee feedback

Committee Business – Christian Moran

- Christian provided a response regarding the focus of Round 2 ARPA Grants
- Committee expressed appreciation in working with Sheldon's and Amy's teams
- Committee asked how items can be included on the agenda and provided feedback for March topics
- The following items were requested for March
 - HCBS Setting Rule updates
 - Staff Stability Survey
 - Meeting format and location
 - Status of Background check review process
 - Supportive Home care usual and customary rates
 - Update on Monthly Budget Statement
 - Onboarding discussion
 - Certification Process
 - Direct Care Worker Program Update
 - Membership update

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm

Prepared by: Shelly Glenn on 1/25/2023.

These minutes are in final form. They were approved by the governmental body on: 3/28/2023