

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Long Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC)			Attending: Audrey Nelson, Chris Witt, Denise Pommer, Dennise Lavrenz, Kenneth Munson, Lea Kitz, Cindy Bentley, Shanna Jensen, Stacy Ellingen, Beth Swedeen, Janet Zander, Elsa Diaz Bautista, LaVerne Jaros, Shakita LaGrant, Beth Fields, Michael Bruhn, Jason Glozier
Date: 1/10/2023	Time Started: 9:32am	Time Ended: 1:04pm	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Curtis Cunningham
<b>Minutes</b>			

**Members absent:** Darci Knapp, Audra Martine

**DHS Staff present:** Brenda Bauer, Grant Cummings, Curtis Cunningham, Alicia Boehme, Christian Moran, Tom Balsley, Krista Willing, Steve Gress, Jie Gu, Kaycee Kienast, Shelly Glenn

### Meeting Call to Order – Curtis Cunningham

- The meeting was called to order at 9:32am.
- Lea Kitz requested a change to the wording on the November meeting minutes regarding a request for financials.
- Chris Witt moved to approve the minutes with that change. LaVerne Jaros seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### DMS Department Updates – Curtis Cunningham

- Curtis shared DMS updates including departing staff, new staff, council openings and applications, 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act - Covid unwinding, EVV hard launch, HCBS rule setting compliance, Humana and Molina proposed asset purchases, 2023 contract statuses, rate setting, and ARPA HCBS funding.
  - Committee provided feedback on Covid unwinding, EVV hard launch, and the proposed asset purchases.
    - There was a request that program participants be involved with review of unwinding communications prior to publishing
    - Any public comment related to EVV hard launch can be sent to Bailey Devorak
    - Council requested additional information regarding the asset purchase – providers not required to participate in procurement processes prior to certification
    - Council requested that providers ensure a diverse and equitable board as a requirement for certification

### DPH Department Updates – Brenda Bauer

- Brenda provided updates regarding the strategic plan, the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), re-accreditation, and the 18 initiatives in BADR that are tied to this council. Stakeholder input will be sought in Q1 2023 for strategic planning. The Governor's Budget is expected to be released in February 2023. Public listening sessions regarding the budget are ongoing.

### ARPA Updates – Curtis Cunningham, Tom Balsley

- Curtis shared updates on the HCBS funding. There are 75 projects currently. The ARPA grants for round one have been awarded. Round two will be in February.
- Denise Pommer provided a status on the ADRC services for tribes as well as the Tribal LTC study group.
- Tom Balsley provided an update on the Independent Living Support Pilot. Two requests for applications were conducted and are being reviewed now. Enrollment expected to start 7/10/2023. A status on the ADRC Modernization project was also provided.
  - Council asked that participants be able to test ADRC Modernization materials before rollout. Brenda and Tom will follow up on that request.
- Curtis shared an update on the No Wrong Door project for children.

- A brief update was shared on the Assisted Living project. Dan Perrons with DQA is the lead on that project.
- The critical incident reporting system project is still in process but moving a bit slower than the other projects.

### **HCBS Settings Rule – Christian Moran**

- Christian shared a presentation regarding the HCBS Settings Rule update
  - Committee would like additional information on how residents can report non-compliance and would also like to see participants be educated on how to report.
  - There was a discussion regarding facility closures and relocation. Curtis reported that DHS has always been successful with relocating as needed. The ARPA initiative discussed earlier also addresses that need.

### **Public Comment**

- Ramsey Lee thanked the council for their hard work. He is concerned with the direct care workforce shortage in the state. He expressed concern that the EVV system is making it more difficult to find workers.
  - Ramsey provided additional written comment following the meeting as he reached the time limit for public comment. He commented that the public listening sessions for EVV did not allow individuals participating by phone to ask questions. He requested that DHS be able to grant exemptions to the EVV program or delay implementation because it is not easily accessible for participants. He also has concerns about workers being underpaid and provided an example from the State of Arkansas.
    - Several members of the council indicated that the time allotted for public comment was not equitable for people with disabilities. There was further discussion about how comment was solicited for the public listening sessions for the pending asset purchases. A request was made to extend the allotted time for public comment. Curtis indicated that would be reviewed.
- An anonymous call-in user indicated his frustration with transferring Medicaid Long Term Care services from state to state and the 6-month residency requirement. Curtis asked that he email Shelly Glenn for follow up.
- Samantha Lotts inquired about a Medicaid Provider revalidation that was delayed since July. Curtis asked her to follow up with Shelly Glenn.
- Michelle provided written comment by email. She has been experiencing difficulty in working with her local ADRC and expressed frustration with being unable to obtain necessary services.

### **Community Engagement Satisfaction Survey Questions Feedback – Jie Gu**

- Jie shared a presentation regarding the survey questions including an online form for feedback
  - Council would like participants to assist in reviewing language and providing feedback regarding plain language
  - Additional discussion from council, and Jie indicated he would take feedback back to the team for consideration.

### **Financial Update / 2023 MCO Rate Setting Discussion – Krista Willing, Grant Cummings**

- Grant briefed the council on the capitation rates and described the process of determining those amounts.
- Krista added that there was not a large rate decrease to MCOs as speculated. A letter was sent by Lisa Olson to the MCOs outlining the changes. There have been ongoing conversations with stakeholders, and their concerns were heard.
  - Council mentioned that there was still some confusion regarding utilization changes and the lingering effects of Covid.
  - Council requested information regarding the communications DHS sent to providers. Krista will follow up with Curtis on this.
  - Direct support shortage is a problem also leading to underutilization. There is a risk corridor in place now providing a shared risk between the state and MCOs.
  - Krista indicated the utilization is a very large topic within the budget. DHS will continue to evaluate.
  - Council requested that DHS look at utilization verses authorization. There may not have been a change in utilization but with authorization especially is someone decided to stay in a group setting in lieu of a home setting.

- Council added that actuarials are look-backs and not reflective of what to expect moving forward. Suggested all-inclusive contracts regarding residential setting that include all aspects such as transportation.

**Council Business**

- Alicia will provide additional information regarding pending asset purchases and feedback in March
- Christian indicated the HCBS update will remain a standing item
- Discuss public comment being more equitable
- Discuss member education on HCBS non-compliance reports and reporting safety concerns
- Solicitation for new council members will begin at the end of this week or early next week
- Council requested annual financial updates as well as quarterly reports as previously provided by Tom Lawless
- Council requested Ombudsman updates and reports as a standing item for meetings
- Council request non-residential numbers on the agenda for the future
- No chair update – dependent on Secretary being appointed

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm

Prepared by: Shelly Glenn on 1/12/2023.

The minutes were approved by the governmental body on: 3/14/2023