

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Long Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC)			Attending: Audra Martine, Audrey Nelson, Beth Swedeen, Christine Witt, Cindy Bentley, Denise Pommer, Dennise Lavrenz, Elsa Diaz Bautista, Janet Zander, Kenneth Munson, LaVerne Jaros, Lea Kitz, Shanna Jensen, Stacy Ellingen, Beth Fields, Jason Glozier, Michael Bruhn
Date: 3/14/2023	Time Started: 9:32am	Time Ended: 3:04pm	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Curtis Cunningham
Minutes			

Members absent: Darci Knapp, Shakita LaGrant

DHS Staff present: Alicia Boehme, Christian Moran, Brenda Bauer, Carrie Molke, Curtis Cunningham, Kevin Coughlin, Andrew Forsaith, Katherine Cullinan, Shelly Glenn, Steve Gress, Kelly Conte-Neumann, Kelly Van Sicklen, Grace Moore

Additional Speakers present: Dorothy Hiersteiner, Laura Vegas

Meeting Call to Order – Curtis Cunningham

- The meeting was called to order at 9:32am.
- Introductions of staff, speakers and council members
- Kenneth Munson moved to approve the minutes. Dennise Lavrenz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously
- Carrie provided a status on new members. We received 88 applications, and decision letters are pending Secretary approval.
- Curtis a brief update on Covid unwinding and also asked the council to listen to the budget information with an ear toward Medicaid expansion
 - Council inquired if there was planned communication to members to ensure they re-enroll, and Curtis confirmed there was
 - Council inquired if LTCAC could sign a letter regarding Medicaid expansion as previously done. Jason moved to create such a letter, and Chris Witt seconded. No vote was taken at this time.
 - Several members expressed concern about signing a letter without knowing specific language.
 - Beth will draft the letter to share with council members

Governor's 2023 – 2025 Budget – Andrew Forsaith

- Andrew shared his presentation on the Governor's budget which was released on February 15th
 - Council inquired about \$56M renovations for Central Center
 - Andrew indicated that was part of the capital budget and not in his purview
 - Council expressed additional concerns regarding condition of both Central and Southern Centers

DPH Department Updates – Carrie Molke

- Carrie provided updates on the Independent Living Support Pilot, ADRC Modernization, State Dementia Plan, APS guardianship training, and EMS training expansion
- Alice Page has announced her retirement in May
- The Department has received lots of community feedback regarding different issues which helps inform the work and planning we do
- Currently working with the Statutory Council on Blindness as well as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Council
 - Have facilitated community conversations supporting the deaf LatinX Community
- The Disability Network Conference is at Wilderness in Wisconsin Dells in April 2024
- Cindy requested the link for the conference and the survey, Carrie will send to her

DMS Department Updates – Curtis Cunningham

- Curtis shared DMS updates including Budget as it relates to Medicaid Expansion and Direct Care Workforce
 - Council asked what increases are tied to Medicaid expansion. Curtis provided details
- Unwinding (continuous enrollment and benefits flexibilities) will happen from June 2023 – May 2024
 - Toolkits are available on the website
- May 1, 2023 is the hard launch for EVV. It will be implemented for home health and private duty nursing in 2024.
 - Advisory groups are in place
 - Dedicated call center and additional info online
 - Feedback welcome, but please look at the system first
 - Council inquired about EVV as it pertains to IRIS participants. EVV Team could provide additional information at IRIS Advisory Committee Meeting per Curtis
- The Family Care waiver renewal must have CMS approval, determining how to receive public feedback
- Currently selecting sites for the housing health savings initiative for transitional supports to pregnant women and children, 1915i waiver submitted to CMS, Curtis did a podcast on this topic
- Rate team is developing assisted living and supportive home care minimum rates for ARPA HCBS
- Continuing to develop trainings for direct care workforce. Early summer is target date.
- ADRS funding for tribal LTC enhancements have been submitted
- Second round of ARPA grants will close on March 21, 2023
- No Wrong Door is Children's is progressing well
- Assisted Living assessment and 1-2 bed AFH also going well

Health Equity Charge Discussion – Katherine Cullinan

- Katherine shared her presentation
- Council added that the concepts of “fair and just” challenges the notion of equity, it's not necessarily about “fair and just” as that gives a false equivalency, it doesn't necessarily mean equal.
- Council added that access is important and including plain language as a part of access
- Katherine asked the council to consider where we see ourselves in this charge
- Carrie and council added that we need additional time to discuss this at a future meeting
- Council said that we need to look at this as well as the context of the county health rankings model language. Look at rankings in health equity and how we are making a difference

HCBS Settings Rule – Christian Moran

- Christian shared an update including the following
 - Statewide Transition Plan was approved on January 20, 2023, rules go into effect March 17, 2023
 - Council added it was not on the CMS website yet, Christian will follow up with CMS
 - We are compliant with the exception of heightened scrutiny settings where the remediation process has been approved. MCOs will be allowed to use those providers in 2023
 - Nearly finished with the benchmarks for the non-residential providers, working on updating DHS website and forms
 - Process complete with 2022 Residential Providers, providers working with MCOs to comply with settings rule of close voluntarily for other reasons. No members relocated for other reasons

Public Comment

- Ramsey Lee thanked the council for their hard work. He supports Beth's idea to write a letter to the Governor regarding Medicaid expansion. He still have concerns regarding EVV and his staff's ability to use it as it has created some issues.

NCI Staff Stability Survey IDD – Dorothy Hiersteiner, Laura Vegas, Curtis Cunningham

- Curtis introduced Dorothy and Laura and provided some context and background to the survey

- Staff Stability Survey is now known as State of the Workforce Survey, full report is available on the NCI website
- Curtis, Dorothy, and Laura each reviewed portions of the presentation
- Council inquired about questions specific to childcare and transportations, Dorothy said specific questions were not asked due to the information coming from provider agencies and not specifically the workforce. There is a specific survey done by the University of Minnesota which is available online
- Council requested a weighted score of cares and behaviors to give a better overall understanding
- Council inquired regarding the frequency of the study, Curtis added we were hopeful it could be done each year but it is dependent on the budget

Merger Discussion – Alicia Boehme, Christian Moran

- Curtis provided a brief overview
- Alicia and Christian reviewed the presentation
- Council expressed concern that feedback is being heard but not taken into consideration, how can this acquisition be stopped?
 - Curtis added that as an agency, DHS has no legal authority to stop the proceedings, however DHS can ensure that entities are certified and compliant with the current contracts
- Council requested presentation be added to the website and expressed concern that the new entity has not gone through procurement. DRW will provide feedback for contract adjustment on oversight and adequacy, specifically service authorization
- Council expressed concern that two entities would control 70% of members
- Council added that member rights and grievance process are critical. Members need to better understand their rights. Ombuds needs to be strengthened as well.
- Council member said they did not entirely understand the process and felt as if they had no voice
- Council member said they were scared and so were the people they represent
- It is critical that the Department has enough staff and resources to provide contract oversight
- Council member stated they were pleased with the work that had been done to address the public comment, but remains concern with transition

Council Business

- Ask Beth to put together a draft letter to Governor / Legislature regarding Medicaid Expansion. Motion was on the floor but not voted upon. All approved with the condition of a glossary of terms being added as well as the letter being in plain language
- Council asked about the Baker Tilly study that is forthcoming, study was initiated by DHS Secretary. No advocates were involved with the study. Add to May agenda, if possible
- If new members are appointed, there is a lot of information that needs to be carried on. There will need to be a new member orientation

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm

Prepared by: Shelly Glenn on 3/15/2023.

These minutes were approved by the governmental body on: 5/9/2023