

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Long Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC)			Attending: Audrey Nelson, Chris Witt, Cindy Bentley, Shanna Jensen, Stacy Ellingen, Beth Swedeen, Audra Martine, Elsa Diaz Bautista, LaVerne Jaros, Shakita LaGrant, Beth Fields, Michael Bruhn, Jason Glozier, Jessica Trudell, Eric Kostrzak, Joel Gouker, Mackenzie Wann, Janet Hogan, John Schnabl, Jennifer Jako, Rosalie Gokee, LaWanda Calhoun, Linda Bova
Date: 7/11/2023	Time Started: 9:35am	Time Ended: 2:20pm	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Curtis Cunningham

Minutes

Members absent: Lea Kitz, Sara Muhlbauer

DHS Staff present: Curtis Cunningham, Carrie Molke, Christian Moran, Alicia Boehme, Brenda Bauer, Kelly Conte-Neuman, Harry Draayers, Kim Schindler, Addie Blanchard, Michelle Osness, Kelly Van Sicklen, Shannon Ballhorn-Wagner, Steve Gress, Shelly Glenn

Meeting Call to Order – Curtis Cunningham

- The meeting was called to order at 9:35am.
- Introductions of council members and DHS staff

DPH Department Updates – Carrie Molke

- Older American Act Regulations are being updated for the first time since 1988
- Continuing to work on the Dementia State Plan
- Caregiver Support
- ADRC Contract
 - Adding community health workers as an optional service
 - Clarification under dementia services

Council Feedback

- Excited for the community health worker aspect. Currently no known restrictions for community health worker. Parameters are not yet set.
 - Pilots have been a success so far

DMS Department Updates – Curtis Cunningham

- Updates provided on the following
 - Renewal process for unwinding
 - MCO Acquisitions
 - EVV Hard Launch update and status
 - 2nd round of ARPA grants awarded
 - WiscWayFinder for children rolling out on August 9th
 - Caregiver site is up and running
 - Family Care renewal occurs every 5 years and must be CMS approved. Comments are due August 1st. Details can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycare/waiver-renewal.htm>
 - MCO Contract changes will be presented at the September meeting
 - Corrective Action Plans have been issued to some contractors which are related to oversight on contract compliance
 - In the process of developing and RFP for Region 5, January 2025

- CMS issued a rulemaking order for access. DHS agreed with most to ensure sufficient access to service but being mindful of requirements prior to implementation. There can be different requirements of HCBS, Managed Care or Fee For Service which can make it difficult to administer

Council Feedback

- No feedback specific to DMS updates

Budget Update/ARPA Update – Curtis Cunningham, Carrie Molke

- Curtis provided the following updates
 - Still analyzing the budget, more formal information distributed
 - Overall base budget was \$30B, Increase of \$3M in the DHS space
 - Specific line item increases reviewed
 - Nursing home supportive service and incentive involve varying rates
 - Minimum fee schedule not approved for Long Term Care Services
 - WisCaregiver funding was not approved
 - ARPA funding extends to March 2025
 - 20-25 projects in the HCBS portfolio
 - 5% ARPA rate increased continued as part of base budget
 - Rate schedule funding was removed. It would require significant funding. Curtis relayed and incident of one MCO reducing rate to be competitive. Further conversation is needed
 - Direct Care workforce – staff stability survey and self directed survey
 - CDCP – Certified Direct Care Professional certification program launched at the end of June. Seeking 10,000 direct care professionals for the program. Will involve self-directed, online training. Public registry for workers with CDCP certification, portability between agencies, career laddering into other fields. UWGB is working with DHS to develop training. Packers will be advertising the program. Has garnered a lot of nationwide attention
 - 8 tribes submitted plans to support HCBS through funding to improve Tribal LTC systems
 - Guardianship training
 - “No Wrong Door” – children’s resource network, WiscWayFinder
 - 1-2 bed AFH certification system
 - HCBS compliance for non-residential systems
 - DQA – Assisted living member facility assessment. Develop a tool that can collect info in a more efficient way
 - CIRS Critical Incident Reporting System
- Carrie provided the following updates
 - Soft launch of the Independent Living Support Pilot will be on Jul 24th. 16 counties participating
 - 65% of elderly in MCOs were already in Family Care due to spending down of assets. Medicaid waiver presented as diversion waiver
 - ADRC modernization involving
 - Client tracking system
 - Resource database
 - Marketing and outreach
 - ADRS – 9 tribes have ADRS, previously were 6. Funding not included in the budget but will review as part of the ADRC budget

Council Feedback

- When will guardianship documents be available in Spanish? Carrie will check and report back.
 - Elsa offered to assist with the translation
- Website for the CDCP program is www.wisccaregivercdcp.com
- Council requested website for respite care grant
- Care managers should be assisting with Medicaid renewals, it is in the MCO contract. There was some language added to the ICA contract
- ADRC also provides services and receive the 5% ARPA increase as well. They started creating a contract with a new MCO that wanted to use the 5% to get a base rate they were requesting. The intent of the 5% is on top of the existing reimbursement. There are many different areas making it difficult to determine what’s in the base rate vs. what’s in direct care workforce.

START Update – Alicia Boehme

- The START initiative is a co-op with the University of New Hampshire University to address IDD/Mental Health Needs
- Five areas of focus are
 - Improve crisis services
 - Improve provider training
 - Increase availability of services
 - Coordinate Care
 - Improve supports for quality of life
- Links for the reports
 - START website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/start.htm>
 - START Report: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/non-dhs/dms/wi-start-scan.pdf>
 - Sign up for START email updates: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_694
- Jackie ____ is the project lead and will form subcommittees, anyone can participate in those

Council Feedback

- Council asked for the links above.
- Council also asked if this initiative would help those with dementia. It will if they have IDD or mental health issues. Other initiatives are more directed to dementia
- It would be helpful if this could coordinate with the Dementia Plan

1-2 Bed Adult Family Home Certification Standards – Harry Draayers

- Presentation was reviewed with council

Council Feedback

- Committee asked about specific accommodations within their home such as appliances, internet access, and room keys. Many of these requirements are covered under HCBS requirements which apply to all settings. They were included to ensure they were not overlooked
- Council asked if there was a plan to engage residents on site visits, training enhancements, and rights education. They residents will be engaged during site visits. Kelly Conte-Neuman will check regarding rights training and will reach out to Beth regarding findings
- Council inquired if 1-2 bed certifications had to go through the state for certification. The process will not change. They will be certified through the MCO, county, or IRIS program. The 3-4 bed AFH is a separate certification process
- These standards should not affect whether members/participants can live in the community

Public Comment

- Ramsey L was thankful with the Family Care increases and is wondering if those will apply to IRIS as well. Also would like to see policy change to allow for caregivers to provide services in the hospital
- Janet Z commented on MCOs being required to lower rates. Curtis provided clarification in that MCOs were not required to but decided to in order to remain competitive.
- Rebecca added comments regarding exceptional care at Central Wisconsin Center
- Dr. Baker expressed appreciation for the programs and work being done
- Juli would like the council to consider the needs of young adults on the spectrum in gaining skills to become employed and provide economic value in Wisconsin through Long Term Care Independent living options including necessity for case workers and independent living options designed for neurodiversity.

NCI IDD Survey Results – Addie Blanchard, Michelle Osness

- Presentation shown to council
 - Numbers are lower because fee for service, nursing homes were not included (approx. 200 surveys) due to time constraints
 - Michelle shared screenshots of the NCI data from the website

- Wisconsin is very close to or above average on all categories except
 - Can you contact a care manager when you want to
 - Do you feel in control of your life
- Transportation and health limitations are noted on both surveys as a reason for why people are unable to get out in their community

Council Feedback

- Council requested that nursing home data be segregated from HCBS settings if they are brought back. The National AD reports separates response by program. NCI will consider that moving forward
- Council requested some modification to the question regarding whether members/participants know what to do if staff are not showing up to include is there a safe option if staff doesn't show.
- Additional information can be found on the NCI website, specifically addressing a council question on housing supports
 - A challenge is that the waiver does not allow payment for room and board. It is very difficult to find community housing. CHIP funds have been used to provide related benefits such as relocation costs and housing counseling.

Family Care Waiver Renewal – Kelsey Melah

- Presentation shared with council

Council Feedback

- Most people will not know what is or isn't allowed by law. Question needs clarification.
- DHSDMSfcrenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov is the email for written feedback
- Feedback is due August 1, 2023
- It is difficult to convey all program benefits.
- There may be a gap in palliative care depending on definition. Many physician services would fall in the service delivery system
- Michael added that there has been a bill addressing palliative care in congress for over a decade. There are definitely struggles at the state and federal level
- Members are saying there are a narrow scope of services they discuss with their care managers. They are not aware of all services available to them. Is it possible to explore consumer rights and education through the waiver? Care managements should be framed out as part of the public comment to help guide feedback.
 - There are provisions around care management in the waiver and in the contract as well. Will look into it to ensure members know what benefits are available to them.
- Living Well Project has worked well with peer mentoring and would support that. They will respond as a board.
- Participation in adaptive sports can help with loneliness and isolation. Fees are not covered which prevents participation
 - Aware of several members who requested YMCA memberships for major physical and behavioral health issues which could be addressed by the membership. Seems a cost-effective solution
- Need to quantify adequate services and provider network
- Tribes have a good relationship with their MCO. They are working together to ensure tribal members can age in place. They would like to be notified when members are assigned an MCO. Tribes may be missing out on reimbursements. Would like to see flexibility in the waiver to address this as well as cultural competency of the benefits.
- When IRIS participants need more care, they should have more education on disenrolling in IRIS and re-enrolling in Family Care. Some is ADRC based. They would like to align enrollment dates to avoid gaps in coverage.
 - There is currently a 90-day transition plan to provide continuity of care
- We need to ensure individuals are aware of their options

Council Business

- May meeting minutes were reviewed

- Motion by Michael Bruhn to approve, seconded by Audrey Nelson
- Jessica Trudell abstained as she was not present
- Council voted to approve minutes
- Curtis called for agenda items
 - Council requested a summary of EVV compliance
 - Statistics regarding compliance were provided for Family Care, IRIS compliance involves separate discussions that are ongoing
 - Council requested summary of feedback from the Family Care Waiver public comment sessions

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm

Prepared by: Shelly Glenn on 7/12/2023.

These minutes are in final form. They were approved by the governmental body on: 9/12/2023