

## Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports Rebalancing Initiatives Steering Committee

Friday, October 13, 2023

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Mary Ann Langston, Mairead Painter, Bonnie Meyers, Bill Halsey, Elaine Kolb, Krista Ostaszewski, Tom Fiorentino, Kevin Brophy, Anna Doroghazi, Melissa Morton, Kathy Flaherty (for Karyl Lee), Michele Jordan, Jennifer Switalski, Mag Morelli (for Laura SR), Cathy Ludlum

Members Excused: Susan Raimondo, Karyl Lee Hall, Laura Snow Robinson,

Members Absent: Melanie Lambert (SDA), Erin Leavitt-Smith, Brenda Texidor (SDA), Maggie Ewald, Kelley Kendall

Members of the Public: Deb Migneault, Dan Beem, Cynthia Scott, Kiomara Cruz, Lauren Carabetta, Anna Karabin, Greg Bennett, Melissa Augeri, Jaylen Williams, Bailey Williams, Vanessa, O'Neal-Campbell, Colleen Hudson, Hye-Yeon Ryu Kim, Guerda Sainval, Ellis Dillon, Julie Robinson, Spring Raymond, Jannette Stewart, Jessica Hughes, Jessica Gudonis, JD Sparks, Christine Bailey, Sheldon Toubman, Barbara Cass, Heather Ferguson-Hull, Pooja Modi, Turquoise Percy, Martha Porter, Paul Ford, Tracy Wodatch, Win Evarts, Theresa Brown, Cynthia Cartier, Susan Morales, Cindy Majersky, Taquonda Woodson, Tasha Erskine, Stacie Ellis, Mike Peccerilli, Sylvia Crespo, Saraid Garcia

1. The meeting was called to order by Mairead, Co-Chair at 10:37.
2. Mairead made a motion to accept September 2023 minutes, Melissa made motion to accept, Bill seconded. Minutes approved. Mag Morelli, Michele Jordan and Kathy Flaherty abstained.
3. MFP Report Out - Lauren
  - 1,355 appls were rec'd from January to September of 2023
  - In 2023, 343 transitioned to the community from January to September 2023
  - In 2022, 320 transitioned to the community from January to September 2022
  - Looking at the trends, transitions have increased from last year.
  - Continuing to improve processes, training staff and to come up with ways to address barriers.
4. Unfinished Business

### Waiver List Update

- Tabled until next meeting.

### Fiscal Intermediary - Bill

- We have a new executed contract with a new FI vendor, GT Independence.
- They have a presence in this space. We can invite them to a future meeting to present themselves, their background and the work they are doing in other states.

- In November or December, we should have a better idea of the transition plan.
- The value they bring is the self-directed perspective.
- The Allied contract will be extended beyond December 31<sup>st</sup> to insure a successful transition plan.
- Bill is looking for volunteers (members and PCAs) that are interested in participating in a group that will provide immediate feedback on identifying issues as they come up. If you are interested, please send him an email. He will also invite these individuals to a future meeting to introduce the new FI.
- Elaine shared that the most effective example of disability justice is in Michigan, and we can consult with Detroit Disability Power which is a community based organization. They would have the disability community evaluation of GT Independence.

#### DSS – Agency Based PCAs - Lauren

- Currently conducting on-going meetings about the implementation of agency based PCA services.
- Do not yet have an implementation date but actively working to establish plan.
- Tracy Wodatch asked how this is new from the current agency based PCAs.
  - Lauren said this is adding community based PCAs to the Community First Choice benefit.
- Bonnie asked since the CFC program is self-directed, does this mean that individuals don't need to be self-directed?
  - Lauren replied that members would now have a choice to self-direct or use agency based PCAs.
- Tom shared that this change is a result of legislation that passed last session. Self-direction has a lot of merit, but there are those who can't do it so this will enable them to continue to be in their own homes. This requires approval from CMS.
- Jennifer asked where CMS comes in for the self-directed option.
  - Cindy explained that if a person gets agency based PCAs, that's through the waiver only, not offered under CFC. Since it's now going to be offered under CFC, it must be approved by CMS for the Federal match.

#### 5. New Business

##### Waiver Deep Dive and Feedback from Waiver Amendment Hearings

- Tabled until the next meeting.

##### Survey of HCBS Providers – Julie Robison

- Survey of HCBS providers – during pandemic how the providers used their ARPA stabilization funds and what their recruitment and retention strategies were.
- There were 450 survey responses, 70% of providers.
- Report will be sent in an email to all in the steering committee meeting.
- Julie would be happy to provide an overview at a future steering committee meeting.

##### Annual Voices Forum

- Mairead shared that she had the annual Voice's Forum last Friday.
- There were questions related to MFP such as access to least restrictive environment and housing from both staff and residents.
- They identified that the way things were done when MFP first started might need to be done again. MFP did regional meetings, and the access agencies went out and talked about the MFP program.

- Mairead told people at the meeting that maybe her program and DSS can partner with the access agencies to create small teams that can go to different buildings to do trainings about the MFP program.
  - Mag suggested a virtual option might be helpful.
- Martha Porter shared that it would be great to do outreach to family members and conservators as well.
- Cathy Ludlum shared that one of the obstacles for people in and outside of facilities is isolation.
- Kevin Brophy said in MFP there are no clear rules and regulations like the UPM.
  - Lauren answered that MFP relies heavily on the operating protocol which includes many federal regulations and requirements and a few supplemental documents.
- Mairead mentioned one of the biggest barriers is documents. She is working with partners to come up with a way to store those documents.
- Mairead also shared that there is a “managing opioid disorder treatment” in nursing homes that DMHAS and DPH are offering. If you want more info, please let her know.

#### CFC Presentation

- Cathy Ludlum asked if this document can be put as an agenda item occasionally, so it's not forgotten.

#### 6. Public Comment

- Stacie Ellis, a new LTC Ombudsman shared that one of the biggest barriers is housing. It seems there is an exorbitant amount of housing being built for lower income individuals. Is there a way to connect the two?
  - Mairead replied that after January, have state agencies who have a hand in the housing process, and individual's that we serve come together and give feedback.
- Sheldon Toubman shared that Allied has been a disaster and it's wonderful to be moving on from them. He appreciates the suggestion of having a group of people on the program to monitor the transition to the new FI. One caution to be aware of is when DSS switched medical transportation, it went from bad to worse. The Dept. ignored the advice from advocates to not go to a capitated contract. There was no monitoring committee of enrollees in real time. He urges people to consider maintaining a group to keep an eye on how things are going, not just during the transition period.
- Anna suggested since the new FI GT Independence will be at our next committee meeting, call or email her with any questions for them in advance.
- Mairead suggested the next meeting be hybrid. Anna is happy to hold it at AARP.

#### 7. Meeting adjourned at 12.03.

Next meeting: **VIRTUAL November 3, 2023**