

CT Family First - Governance Committee

June 11, 2021 | 10:00 - 11:00 am

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Welcome

- Commissioner Dorantes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Governance Committee for their flexibility in meeting today.
- Values drive policy, but they are then tempered by the budget.
 - The federal government is looking at prevention and setting the national tone.
 - Our process has been inclusive and transparent, with certain pieces driven by DCF.
- Child protection is aligning with children's behavioral health, and we must thread the needle between these two while also continuing to be responsible for child welfare.
 - The plan has many different components, which we can split into short, medium, and long-term pieces. We do not want to overreach.
- DCF is grateful for the continued partnership from external partners, sister state agencies, OPM, Chapin Hall, Casey Family Programs, and Don Winstead, among others.

DCF's Fiscal Infrastructure: Title IV-E Discussion with Cindy Butterfield

- Cindy Butterfield shared some information from a fiscal perspective and how this will affect implementation of the Prevention Plan.
- The pandemic has elongated the planning process, and the finish line is unclear. This has meant that it is not present in the Governor's budget.
- With this in mind, the plan will be delineated between immediate and future plan.
 - The plan will be implemented in various stages so that we can take immediate advantage of Title IV-E reimbursement and fuel a better plan for the future.
 - It will be phased in over time.

Draft Prevention Plan: Ken Mysogland and JoShonda Guerrier

- At the last Governance meeting in May, we reviewed the draft feedback. Since then, we have gotten feedback from the Governor's Office and OPM. All these edits have been incorporated, so for transparency, DCF will share the changes with the Governance Committee.
 - The presentation showing the edits is available on the DCF Family First website; for more details, please review the PowerPoint. Slide numbers will be referenced below.
- First, we intend for an equity lens to be incorporate throughout, so we ask that you listen with this in mind.

Section 1: Background and Vision for Transformation (slide 3)

- We have bolstered the community pathways language and added language around why serving families upstream aligns with the mission of Family First.
- There is now enhanced language around our partnership with the State Department of Education (SDE).

Section 2: Eligibility and Candidacy Identification (slide 4)

- Candidacy language was updated for caregivers who have substance use issues, mental health conditions, or disabilities that impact parenting.
- The phased-in approach to candidacy implementation is incorporated.
 - Phase I: Those known to DCF
 - Interim Phase: Development and fiscal analysis of Care Management Entity (CME)
 - Phase II: Community Pathways

Section 3: Prevention Services (slide 5)

- Outcome data for MST was clarified.
- CT evaluation partners for TF-CBT were identified.
- The phased in approach was reiterated.

Section 4: Child-Specific Prevention Plan (slide 6)

- Information about Wrap-CT was added.

Section 5: N/A - No Changes Made

Section 6: Evaluation Strategy and Waiver Request (slide 7)

- We removed Chapin Hall as our CQI partner and clarified where CQI efforts would be directed, as well as embedded a racial justice lens into CQI.
- Community Pathways partners were added as CQI partners.

Wrap-Up and Questions

- One member thanked DCF leaders for ensuring participation and feedback on the plan. They asked for more information about budget constraints--what budget constraints are there, and how much are we falling short by Phase II? The Commissioner clarified that developing Phase II while also allocating ARPA funds and completing the biennial budget would be very challenging. Further, ARPA gives us a false sense of security since it is a one-time payment. Cindy added that ARPA could be good start-up money,

but it is not sustainable. We need to plan out and determine how we can make this sustainable; however, we should not wait to implement some portions of the plan that can be quickly enacted. We want to do as much as possible quickly, and then as we meet our goals, we can integrate the funding into the budget. That planning should start in the fall. Commissioner clarified that we also need to maximize Medicaid and HUSKY funding.

- A member asked how much the state budget has impacted this; although the final budget is not out yet, the draft budgets have not included as much for children's behavioral health. Commissioner responded we will be deliberate in how we will implement the plan; there is some overlap with children's behavioral health, but we should not be relying on short-term money for this.
- Another question was how these changes will impact the timeline of public comment and submission. JoShonda replied that we are still finetuning the plan for public comment, but we are committed to offering two weeks to our partners. The plan will be sent to the RACs, the SAC, and our Parents as Experts participants, in addition to other external partners. We will analyze and incorporate their recommendations and follow up with the Governance Committee with any significant changes.
- We do not plan on reaching out to individuals in the workgroups, but anyone can comment. We are excited to show our Parents as Experts group their impact.
- With that, Commissioner thanked everyone for their time.

Next Steps

- The plan will go public for a two-week comment period and that feedback will be reviewed.
- Any questions or comments can go to JoShonda Guerrier or Ken Mysogland, or they can be sent to the Family First email.