

Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports Rebalancing Initiatives Steering Committee

Friday, April 5, 2024
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Summary

Members Present: Mary Ann Langton, Mairead Painter, Bonnie Meyers, Bill Halsey, Elaine Kolb, Melissa Morton, Laura Snow Robinson, Cathy Ludlum, Karyl Lee Hall, Cole Cooper, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Paul Chase, Kelley Kendall, Jennifer Switalski, Tom Fiorentino

Members Excused: Maggie Ewald, Kevin Brophy, Susan Raimondo, Amy Dumont, Michele Jordan

Members Absent: Krista Ostaszewski

Members of the Public: Lauren Carabetta, Greg Bennett, Melissa Augeri, Vanessa O'Neal-Campbell, Hye-Yeon Ryu Kim, Jessica Hughes, Heather Ferguson-Hull, Guerda Sainval, Martha Porter, Paul Ford, Tasha Erskine, Mike Peccerilli, Saraid Garcia, Holly Carmichael, Julia Fishman, Michael Werner, Karri Filek, Jay Katz, Chris Washington, Glady's Diaz, Janette Steward, Barbara Cass, Winsome Harvey, Lindsay Jesshop, Mag Morelli, Toni Ortega, Theresa Brown, Brenda Texidor, Tamara Lopez, Diana DiBartolomeo, Angie Pearson, Jodi Brazal, Lisa Albert, Maria Figueroa, Bailey Williams, Ellis Dillon, Luisa Parente, Sheldon Toubman, Anna Karabin, Megan Baker, Kiomara Cruz, Daniel Beem, Elyse Pearson, Jared Duzan, Albert Long, Julie Otterpilot, Colleen Hudson, Lorena Emanuel, Sylvia Crespo, Cindy Majersky, Stacie Ellis, Andrea Barrett, Kari Tardiff, Amanda Mangiafico, Abdaleh Mohamoud, Tracy Wodatch, Christine Weston, Jaylen Williams, Kimberly Oliver, Pamela Arseneau, Beth Carangelo, Melva Cooper

1. The meeting was called to order by Mairead, Co-Chair at 10:30.
2. Mairead made a motion to approve the February minutes. Elaine moved to accept. Erin seconded. February minutes were approved.
3. New Business
 - Department of Housing - Steve DiLella
 - Mairead shared that one of the challenges of MFP is transitioning out and that is related to housing, so Steve was invited to help us understand the DOH programs.
 - Mag Morelli shared that Leading Age thinks some of the shortages of housing is because all the home and community-based services that we have in the state. We need to invest in more housing.
 - Cindy Majersky said that housing is the biggest barrier. Landlords are not accepting our SDGs, they want large holding fees, moving fees, key fees and parking fees.
 - Steve hit on a few of these things and more.
 - He agreed that there is a limited number of units that are available.
 - The housing market rent has increased over the years.
 - DOH is giving people upwards to a year (instead of 90 days) when they get their voucher, so they don't lose it.
 - HUD allows federal vouchers to go to 120% of the fair market rent.

- Units that have services involved are going to be more complicated because that's not going to just involve DOH.
- DOH has capitol to build buildings but would need funding source for other services.
- DOH administers the RAP and Section 8 programs. People find an apt. in the state, the unit needs to pass inspection, eligibility needs to be met by the consumer (below 50% of median income). There aren't as many handicap accessible or adaptable units available.
- DOH also develops affordable housing. It can go from 30% of median income up to 80%. It just depends on how the developer constructs the project. The rents are controlled. The unit gets supported through the sale of bonds or tax credits. The tenant would have to pay 30% of the median income. These units are open to the public and are highly competitive. Needs such as location on transportation are taken into consideration.
- DOH does not build luxury housing; however, they do like to have mixed income in their housing.
- CHESS is a program that tries to identify people who have high Medicaid costs and provide them with housing. The state committed to match 300 vouchers to that program and there are no more available. The Medicaid benefit gives housing stabilization services that may be able to assist in a situation you are currently living in.
- Mairead would like a report out on CHESS and if it's been successful maybe advocate for more vouchers.

4. Subcommittee Report – NCQA Person-Centered Outcomes - Martha Porter

Martha shared a presentation titled Implementation of NCQA Person-Centered Outcome Measures in CHCP, PCA, and ABI Waivers.

- UConn is working on one of the ARPA initiatives (Improvement in person centered goal attainment) with NCQA.
- UConn looked at measures, helped implement them and then gave guidance to DSS.
- The goal is to put person-centered goals on Connie so the team would be able to see where the person was at and help work to meet the person's goals.
- NCQA has created three different measures: 1) goal identification, 2) goal follow-up within 180 days, and 3) goal achievement.
- On the universal assessment is an open text field for person centered goals. The assessors take the individual's goals and incorporate them into the care plan.
- What is missing is a concrete tracking and sharing of goals and that is where Connie comes into play.
- The Goal Attainment Scale tracks progress of the goals.
- The care managers have completed training and have been doing this since January 2024.
- First submission by Access Agencies was in February and this only measured goal number one. UConn sent these including housing, transportation, and food access data to NCQA.
- NCQA will be looking at all three goals quarterly until March 2025.
- Lastly, benchmarks will be looked at for each different measure.
- Cathy shared that she wanted to make sure there was a personal touch with this program and not just a 5-minute check in every 6 months.

- Elaine mentioned that people with lived experience should be heard when implementing our programs. Mairead is going to put this on a future agenda.
5. Steering Committee – purpose and outcomes
 - Mairead said she put this topic on the agenda because people are asking about it.
 - People want a subcommittee to continue discussions, regularity of meetings, who's in the meetings, who people report to, what we are steering towards. what are we looking for, maybe have visioning sessions.
 - MaryAnn would like to see more diversity on the steering committee.
 6. Public Comment
 - Jennifer Switalski shared that the CT Statewide Respite Program has ARPA dollars and would like to get the word out for applying for the program. Clients cannot be on the Home Care Program at the same time. Area Agency on Aging will help people figure out if they are eligible for the program and can walk them through the process.
 - Elaine said that everyone is invited to come to the Capitol on April 18 from 1 to 3. They will be addressing several issues on disability justice, wheelchair repair and mental health issues.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Next meeting: **VIRTUAL May 3, 2024**