Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports Rebalancing Initiatives Steering Committee

Friday, May 3, 2024
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Summary

Members Present: Mary Ann Langton, Bonnie Meyers, Bill Halsey, Elaine Kolb, Melissa Morton, Laura Snow Robinson, Cathy Ludlum, Cole Cooper, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Jennifer Switalski, Kathy Flaherty, Susan Raimondo, Krista Ostaszewski, Michele Jordan

Members Excused: Maggie Ewald, Kevin Brophy, Mairead Painter, Karyl Lee Hall, Kelley Kendall

Members Absent: Amy Dumont, Tom Fiorentino

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, Tasha Erskine, Mike Peccerilli, Saraid Garcia, Julia Fishman, Karri Filek, Glady's Diaz, Barbara Cass, Winsome Harvey, Toni Ortega, Theresa Brown, Tamara Lopez, Angie Pearson, Lisa Albert, Maria Figueroa, Ellis Dillon, Luisa Parente, Anna Karabin, Daniel Beem, Julie Otterpilot, Colleen Hudson, Sylvia Crespo, Cindy Majersky, Stacie Ellis, Abdaleh Mohamoud, Tracy Wodatch, Christine Weston, Beth Carangelo, Maia Carpentino, Jessica Gudonis, Chrissy Reynolds, Andrea Barrett, Christine Cianciolo, Therence James, JD Sparks, Stacey Larrabee, Lori Sims, Dane Lustila, Deb Migneault, Turquoise Percy, Julie Robison, Hope Mitchell-Williams, Jeanette Burney, Pooja Modi, Nadine Morse, Cynthia Scott, Spring Raymond, Cynthia Carter

1. The meeting was called to order by Dan Beem (for Mairead), Co-Chair at 10:35.

2. Dan made a motion to approve the April minutes. Cathy noted that acronyms should be spelled out. Erin moved to accept. MaryAnn seconded. April minutes were approved.

3. MFP Report Out - Lauren

    - MFP rec'd 602 applications from January through April of 2024.
    - In 2024, 142 people transitioned between January and April.
    - In a report completed by Mathematica, CT was highlighted as a best practice state in a report to congress. CT is identified as a top state in the three of the nine best practices.
    - The link to the full presentation is at Best Practices in the MFP Demonstration Report to Congress (Medicaid.gov)
    - The report highlights how our housing coordinators and housing staff have worked to establish strong partnerships with landlords, MFP staff and housing authorities resulting in increased housing options.
    - MFP's partnership with CT Dept. of Housing, housing authorities and access to the CT Aid 11 program was highlighted in the report. CT MFP participants have access to the rental assistance program also referred to as RAPs.
    - The foundation of our housing model started with the nursing facility transition grant in 2001 and in 2002 through a partnership with the State Housing Authority which established priority housing for institutionalized people and the Section 8 program.

- CT was able to secure state funded housing subsidies by demonstrating cost savings associated with investing in housing subsidies compared to the cost of an institutional stay.
- CT also leverages funds available for home modifications through the Community First Choice program.
- CT is also recognized for state approaches to measuring and addressing disparities. Race and ethnicity data were included in the universal assessment tool which will be updated to better reflect race and ethnicity data.
- CT has provided a trauma informed care racial equity lens initiative training for home and community-based service providers.
- CT was also highlighted in best practice for opportunities and challenges to integrating MFP practices and state agencies into the transitional Medicaid program.

4. FI Transition Ongoing Update – Bill/Christine

- Bill reminded us that Christine Weston is the new Director for the entire Community Options program at DSS. She will be taking over Bill's role on the council.
- GT Independence is our new fiscal intermediary. Today marks the 5th payroll that they are paying out to our PCA's.
- DSS is still meeting everyday to make sure this transition is smooth. The vast majority of PCAs are getting paid on time.
- Those that are not getting paid, GTI is resolving in a timely way.
- GTI brings a great deal of expertise and passion to this work.
- Bill welcomed other people's thoughts on how things are going.
    - Elaine is getting horror stories from people who are either the family member or recipient that they are not getting help from GTI. She believes the problem is partly because GTI is in Michigan.
        - Bill responded that there is a CT site and GTI will be held accountable to provide excellent services.
        - Christine shared that DSS has a direct triage system that goes directly to GTI for complaints and that they are tracked. She is going to email Elaine after the meeting.
    - Cathy shared that she is also hearing things from the community. When things are good, they are good but when they are bad, people will speak out. Her hiccups are with over night units. The way DSS told her to do them is not the way GTI does them. Her other issue is trying to get new people hired; there seems to be some kind of hang up in the background check system.
        - Christine will provide a web form so people can submit complaints and concerns.
    - MaryAnn had issues with provider credentialing.
        - Tammy shared that DSS has a point of contact for these issues, and she can contact her.

5. New Business

<u>Nominating Committee</u>

- Mary Ann's PCA shared that the nominating committee is honored to present Laura Snow Robinson to replace and complete Anna Dorogahzi co-chair term.
- Laura is the Director of the Institute on Aging Mosaic Senior Life, a nonprofit aging services provide in Bridgeport, CT. She joined Mosaic in 2008 after receiving her Master's in public health policy and administration from the Yale School of Public Health. She is a certified domestic violence and sexual assault victims advocate and

serves on the Coalition for Elder Justice in CT Steering Committee. Laura has been an active member of the MFP steering committee since 2017.

- Mary Ann asked for a motion. Cathy moved and Elaine seconded motion.
- Laura is excited to help fill Anna's shoes and assist Mairead with the meetings.

<u>Annual Report Out on MFP – UConn – Therence James</u>

- Therence has worked on the MFP evaluation for about 9 years now. He operates as the interviewer supervisor to ensure that surveys get completed on time.
- His main goal is to identify quality of care and service experience from the consumer.
- He will be focusing on the 92% of interviews that were completed in the community and at assisted living facilities and residential care homes.
- He asks about experiences at the one-month period and at the 12-month period.
- Survey utilizes HCBS CAPS survey and adds in quality of life, informal supports, finances, and healthcare.
- Consists of 12 questions ranging from never to always.
- A lot of the consumers had a high rating for 'Care manager/TC is helpful', 'choosing the services that matter to you' and 'transportation to medical appointments.'
- Planning time and activities had a low rating and this can be improved.
- Consumers would recommend their staff, especially those providing personal care to family or friends.
- Without the consistent involvement of family and friends, many aspects of this program wouldn't work.
- A high percentage of consumers expressed being happy with the way they live at both the one month and 12-month time point.
- There is a high utilization rate for ER visits, hospitalizations and reinstitutionalization at the one-month post transition. Consumers are going into nursing homes at a much lower rate.
- Common reasons for ER visits tend to be falls, COPD, trouble breathing, poor medication management.
- Depressive symptoms don't really change through the two different time points. Lack of social engagement and transportation increased depressive symptoms.
- Consumer's who are eligible for a waiver expressed they had more support from their care manager/transition coordinator, more social support from family members and friends, tended to be more satisfied with community housing and were more likely to have all home modification equipment and devices that they needed.
- Self-directed consumers as opposed to agency-based services, expressed having better experiences with services and staff, greater social support and happier with the way they live their life.
- For more information, the report is posted on the UConn Health Center on Aging website. It will also be sent to everyone by DSS.
- Elaine thanked everyone who made it possible for people to have a realistic, fighting chance to get back out into the community with freedom and choice.
- Elaine also mentioned that we need to establish something she calls the extended family network with neighbors and friends for people that don't have any family or friend support.
- MaryAnn wanted to know what will happen to the people that are not happy or are finding challenges.
    - Julie Robison from UConn answered that these are confidential interviews and if someone reports an immediate danger, they are mandated reporters and will go right back to the MFP manager with the issues. They let the person know that it must be reported. There is a whole process in place for this.

- Julie went on to say that if it's something not dangerous, they are encouraged to contact their case manager and are provided with that information.

6. Public Comment
   - Julie encourages people to look at the UConn report because there is a lot more information in there that wasn't shared today. She said that UConn does this report every year and past reports are also on the website.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting: **VIRTUAL June 7, 2024**