

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

April 8, 2021

I. Call to order

MaryAnn Schiefen called to order the regular meetings of the DD Advisory Committee at 10:05 am on Thursday, April 8, 2021 via WebEx.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Advisory Members Present: MaryAnn Schiefen, Lisa Pruitt, Linda Jespersen, Kristen Larsen, Diane Focht, Angela Willey, Mark Shriver, Jennifer Miller, Dianne DeLair, Margaret Huss, Lori Broady, Lorie Regier, Suzie Wahlgen

Advisory Members Absent: Vicki Depenbusch, Butch Crookedfoot, Cathy Martinez, Debbie Salomon

DHHS Staff: Tony Green, Tyla Watson, Jennifer Perkins, Curtis Walters, Jesse Bjerrum, Katie Weidner, Larry Kahl, Micah Miller, Joe Dondlinger

Meeting Attendees: Joe Valenti, Tricia Wek Visker, Ingrid Durbin

III. Approval of Agenda

Lori Broady moved to approve the agenda as presented. 2nd by Kristen Larsen. Agenda approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2019 meeting

- Correction to Minutes: Debbie Salomon was listed as present, she was not present.
- Diane Focht made a motion to approve minutes as amended, motion 2nd by Angela Willey. Minutes approved as amended.

V. Introduction Larry Kahl, Chief Operating Officer

- a) Chief Operating Officer oversees the Adult 24 hour Facilities
- b) Beatrice State Developmental Center
 - Current Census 89
 - Long Term Care 85
 - Crisis Stabilization 4
 - Working on upgrading the stabilization building and staffing focusing on quality and safety.

VI. DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities – Updates/Review of Action Items

a) COVID-19 Update – Tony Green

- Waiver Amendment Appendix K:Emergency Preparedness
 - Current Appendix K's (all 4 Waivers) are valid through 06/30/2021
- Update on COVID-19 Cases in the Services • 1038 total positive cases
 - A&D 503 positive
 - DD 535 positive

- Vaccinations – DHHS with support of community partners held COVID-19 vaccination events:
 - Omaha 04/02/2021 1000 Slots offered over 630 utilized
 - Lincoln 04/07/2021 500 Slots offered 395 utilized
 - Grand Island 04/09/2021 100 Slots offered
 - Norfolk 04/09/2021 100 Slots offered
- Discussion Followed.

b) Objective Assessment Redesign – Tony Green

- The population impact study for the proposed Enhanced Risk Identification Model and tier structure for individual budgets is complete.
- The next step is sharing the recommendations with stakeholders and receiving feedback on the budget tiers.
- The standard cost-reporting template is implemented.
- Discussion followed.

c) Level of Care Assessment Redesign Project Update – Tony Green

- Phase I (Nursing Facility) Update:
 - The children nursing facility level of care (NF LOC) criteria revised regulations have been promulgated and the interRAI PEDS-HC standardized assessment has been implemented as of 1/1/21.
 - Focus has begun on minor revisions to the Adult NF LOC regulations and implementing the interRAI Home Care (HC) standardized assessment for the Adult/Aged populations. Target date for implementing the adult NF LOC in July 2021.
- Phase II (Intermediate Care Facility) Update:
 - DD is planning to implement the recommendation of using the ICAP for ICF LOC.
 - Priority is to focus on implementing the interRAI-HC for the NF LOC for the adults/aged in July, and ICF LOC is targeted for by 12/31/21.
- **Follow up:** Division will present at the next meeting more information on how child LOC works and how criteria is determined.
- Discussion followed.

d) Waitlist/Registry Update – Tony Green

- HANDOUT: Registry Statistics
 - 2,952 on Registry as of April 1
 - 47 % or 1,396 on the Registry are receiving some form of assistance while they are waiting to receive additional services
 - 33% are receiving a waiver services
- Funding offers are currently being made for 100 persons under the sixth priority level (by date of application).
- Discussion followed.

e) Quality Management Plan Update – Jennifer Perkins

- Liberty Healthcare is currently in Phase 1: Data/information sharing/collection with the Department of Health and Human Services and Stakeholders.
- Quality Information System is a 5 year project.
- Discussion followed.

f) DD Court-Ordered Custody Act - Jessie Bjerrum

- HANDOUT: DD Court Ordered Custody Act Statistics
- 36 Currently Active DD Court Ordered Custody Act cases
- Will be adjusting the template on how we submit reports under statute 71-1134 to the court. Beginning in May, going route the report through the clinician. This was not done previously.
- Discussion followed.

VII. Electronic Visit Verification/Tellus – Micah Miller

- a) PowerPoint: Electronic Visit Verification
- b) Committee members shared some of the issues they have experienced or have heard about current system.
 - Lots of concerns in rural areas
 - Therap is not user friendly and hard to navigate.
 - The system is down often and is not working for families.
 - Tellus system has been extremely hard to use. Tellus is unresponsive. Only received an automatic response. Hopeful things will improve.
 - Customer Service is non-existent.
 - Many providers are saying they will not support clients that require EVV. People that don't have computers/have access to computers.
- c) High priority efforts to improve customer service.
- d) **Follow up**: Micah will provide an update on what steps we are taking to improve the process.
- e) Discussion followed.

VIII. Overview on how DDD develop rates – Joe Dondlinger

- a) PowerPoint: Review of Rate Development Process for DD HCBS Services
 - **Follow up**: Joe will add an independent provider breakdown example slide and Tyla will email an updated copy of presentation to committee.
 - **Follow up**: DD Rate Development – Continued conversation with be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
- b) Discussion followed.

IX. Staff Stability Survey for National Core Indicator: How we compare to other states. – Katie Weidner

- a) PowerPoint: National Core Indicator Project (NCI) In-Person & Staff Stability Surveys
- b) **Follow Up**: Tyla Watson will email presentation to committee.
- c) Discussion Followed.

X. Public Comment

- a) Joe Valenti - Requested information about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - Signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021
 - The law increases the federal reimbursement (FMAP) on Medicaid HCBS by 10 % from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. The bill specified that states must implement or supplement the implementation of one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS. States cannot use the funding to supplement existing funding.
 - The Division is currently awaiting input from Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) on additional information on how this process will work/next steps.
- b) Joe Valenti – Asked how many Service Coordination vacancies there currently are and what caseload numbers are?
 - 11 Service Coordination and 1 A&D statewide
 - Current Caseloads at 25
- c) Joe Valenti – In response to Rate Review Presentation, Mr. Valenti asked if classification for DSP is correct, does that dictate what they can or can't get paid?
 - This is a national issue. A DSP does not have its own category. All states using BLS has to use a hybrid. It is problematic at a national level. This is currently the best match to DSP.

XI. General Order of Business

- a) Meeting dates accepted as presented
 - Thursday, June 17, 2021
 - Thursday, August 19, 2021
 - Thursday, October 21, 2021
 - Thursday, December 9, 2021
- b) Committee Secretary
 - MaryAnn previously the committee secretary, asked committee if there were any volunteers for this position.
 - Linda Jespersen volunteered to be the committee secretary.

XII. New Business

- a) Appendix K – Submitted a new Appendix K extension in February. It was approved, and we are currently under an extension until June 30, 2021.

XIII. Adjournment

Lorie Regier made a motion to Adjourn. Suzie Wahlgren seconded. MaryAnn Schiefen adjourned the meeting at 12:37 PM.

Next meeting to be held:

Thursday, June 17, 2021