

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021

I. Call to order

MaryAnn Schiefen called to order the regular meetings of the DD Advisory Committee at 10:00 am on Thursday, October 21, 2021.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Advisory Members Present: MaryAnn Schiefen, Lisa Pruitt, Linda Jespersen, Kristen Larsen, Mark Shriver, Jennifer Miller, Dianne DeLair, Lori Regier, Margaret Huss, Debbie Salomon

Advisory Members Absent: Diane Focht, Angela Willey, Lori Broady, Suzie Wahlgen, Vicki Depenbusch, Cathy Martinez

DHHS Staff: Tony Green, Jennifer Perkins, Tyla Watson, Brandy Boer, Colin Large, Shauna Adams

III. Approval of Agenda

Debbie Salomon moved to approve the agenda as presented. 2nd by Peg Huss. Agenda approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 2021 meeting

- Peg Huss made a motion to approve minutes, motion 2nd by Linda Jespersen. Minutes approved.

V. Liberty Introduction Presentation: Darryl Millner, Executive Director, Jennifer Quigley, Katie Weidner, Quality Assurance Administrator (via WebEx).

- PowerPoint shared with committee.
- Discussed followed
- Follow up: Tyla Watson to email a copy of the PowerPoint to the Committee.

VI. Children's Level of Care: How it works and How Criteria is Determined – Brandy Boer, DHHS Program Specialist – RN

- PowerPoint shared with committee.
- Discussion followed
- Follow up: Tyla Watson to email a copy of the PowerPoint to the committee.

VII. Independent Provider Enrollment – Shauna Adams

- HANDOUT – Independent Provider Enrollment
- Concerns Expressed:
 - The process is too complex and complicated
 - Feels issues with communication within the process. Maximus does not reach out to the providers to let them know when more information is needed or if there is a problem with the process.

- Follow up:
 - Requesting additional data on how long the process takes from state to finish.
 - Provide an update on actions taken to improve communication in the process.

VIII. Electronic Visit Verification/Netsmart (formerly Tellus) – Colin Large, Project Manager

- PowerPoint shared with the committee.
- Discussion followed.
- Follow up: Tyla Watson to email a copy of the PowerPoint to the committee.

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

a) COVID-19 Update – Tony Green

- Continuing to encourage vaccinations.
- Discussed concerns about staff shortages.
- Discussion followed.

b) Registry Update

- HANDOUT – Registry Statistics
- 2848 on Registry as of October 1, 2021
- 33 % on the Registry are receiving waiver services.
- Working on filling waiver slots with available money from 500 slots to the comprehensive waiver
- Discussion followed.

c) DD Court-Ordered Custody Act

- HANDOUT – Annual DD Court Ordered Custody Act Report
 - \$8,337,020 spent on services for fiscal year 2020/2021
 - Report includes a Participant cost report for each fiscal year since FY2014/2015. – Total spent \$1,605,487
- HANDOUT - DD Court Ordered Custody Act Statistics
 - 38 Active DD COCA Cases
 - Discussion followed.

d) Legislative Resolution 239

- HANDOUT: Copy of Legislative Resolution 239
- Resolution for an interim study to examine the effectiveness of Medicaid waivers in Nebraska overseen and implemented by DDD
- Tentative Hearing date – December 3, 2021

e) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – HCBS

- July 12, 2021 - Nebraska sent to the federal government its proposed initial spending plan on, for the additional funds available for home and community based services (HCBS) through the American Rescue Plan Act. A copy of the
- September 30, 2021 – Nebraska received partial approval and further questions regarding the states spending plan from CMS.

- October 15, 2021 - Nebraska sent CMS additional information as part of its quarterly spending update.
 - All documents are on the DHHS public website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx>
- f) Olmstead Plan
- Next Olmstead Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 28, 2021
 - Year 1 Evaluation due to the Legislative December 15, 2021.
- g) State Tour:
- Tony Green is currently doing a state tour holding stakeholder meetings.
 - Locations Complete :
 - Norfolk
 - Beatrice
 - Omaha
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - Thursday, October 21, 2021, Lincoln: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Lincoln Community Foundation, 5th Floor, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508
 - Monday, October 25, 2021 Scottsbluff: 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, Heritage Room, 1809 3rd Ave, Scottsbluff, NE 69361
 - Tuesday, October 26, North Platte: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. North Platte Library, Library Meeting Room, 120 West 4th St, North Platte, NE 69101
 - Wednesday, October 27, 2021 Kearney: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kearney Public Library, Niobrara Room, 2020 1st Ave, Kearney, NE 68847
 - Monday, November 1, 2021 Papillion: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Sump Memorial Library, South Meeting Room, 1046 W Lincoln St, Papillion, NE 68046
- h) Waiver Updates
- DHHS is currently accepting public comment related to the states plan to renew the HCBS Waivers (Comprehensive and Adult Day). Public comments ends October 27, 2021.
 - CMS Approved the HCBS Waiver Amendments – went into effect October 1, 2021

X. Nebraska Open Meeting Act/LB83

- HANDOUTS: Legislative Bill 83 & DHHS Fact Sheet
- Discussion followed.

XI. New Business

a) Direct Support Professional –

- Interested Citizen - Committee Member
 - Advisory Committee Page updated with a statement asking for Direct Care Professionals to apply.
 - Email sent out the staff and stakeholders in June 2021
- Direct Care Town Hall
- Discussion followed.

- b) Committee Appointments/Reappointments Update
 - As of October 19, 2021 applications for the committee were under review with Governor's office.
 - As soon review is complete, letters notifying new members and members having their terms end will be mailed out by the Governor's office.
- c) Future Meeting dates
 - Committee reviewed possible date. Dates approved are:
 - February 10, 2022
 - April 14, 2022
 - June 2, 2022
 - August 11, 2022
 - October 13, 2022
 - December 1, 2022
- d) Other
 - Tony will not be at the December meeting. Committee may want to have a planning session/day. Please let Tony/Tyla know in advance any updates would like to see so we can plan with available staff.

XII. Adjournment

MaryAnn Schiefen adjourned the meeting.

Next Meetings:

Thursday, December 9, 2021
DHHS Office, Conference Room "P"
5220 South 16th St
Lincoln, NE 68512