

Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2014

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

La Quinta Inn and Suites

5217 East Terrace Drive

Madison, WI 53178

Council Members Present: Liz Hecht (Chairperson), Nissan Bar-Lev, Cheryl Berg, Charity Eleson, Sharon Fleischfresser, Melanie Fralick (via phone), Phyllis Greenburger (designee for Dan Idzikowski, Disability Rights Wisconsin), Barbara Katz, Kristen Menningen, Jeff Muse, John Shaw, Melissa Stolz

Council Members Absent: Jonelle Brom, Sue Gilbertson, Lynn Green, Pilar Guzman, Darsell Johns, Jodi Pelishek, Walt Schalick, Julie Turkoske

DHS Council Staff: Julie Bryda, Sue Larsen, Becky Burns, Camille Rodriguez

Public Attendees: No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 10:05 AM.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Liz Hecht, Chairperson

Liz H. welcomed attendees; Council members and Department of Health Services (DHS) staff introduced themselves.

2. Operational

- Council members shared the following announcements:
 - John S. relayed the 2015 Circles of Life (COL) Conference presentation packets will be released in one week. Next year's COL conference will be held in Stevens Point on April 30 – May 1, 2015. In addition, the Board for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) will hold a six-session leadership and advocacy training program; applications are due September 1, 2014. SPARKS Grants are also available; applications are due August 1, 2014. For further information, visit BPDD's website at: www.bpdd.org.
 - Phyllis G. shared that the Children Come First Conference will be held on November 10-11, 2014, at Glacier Canyon Resort in Wisconsin Dells. She will send the website link to Sue to share conference details with the Council members.
 - Nissan B. indicated the Governor's Autism Council has been in operation for 10 years now and has focused on the needs of children diagnosed with autism who are eligible for the CLTS Waiver. The Autism Council has recognized there are many children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who are not eligible to receive services through the CLTS Waiver whose families also need support. The Autism Council is considering how to support children and families throughout their lifespan.
 - Barbara K. raised the issue of whether the Autism Council should be merged with the CLTS Council since it seems there are shared goals.
 - Liz H. recommended the CLTS Council form a subcommittee to review and discuss the possibility of merging both councils. Nissan and Liz will meet and discuss how to move forward and collaborate.
- Council members reviewed the minutes from the CLTS Council meeting held on June 11, 2014.
 - Barbara K. made a motion to approve the June 11th meeting minutes; Charity E. seconded the motion; the motion carries.

3. Division of Long Term Care (DLTC)/Bureau of Long-Term Support (BLTS) Updates – Camille Rodriguez, Director

- Camille provided an overview of her priorities and upcoming changes within the Bureau, which include:
 - Hiring a BLTS project manager to address the complex issues of proper services and supports for children and families, as well as improved coordination among the bureaus within the Division of Long Term Care.
 - Reorganizing the Bureau to assign program subject matter experts. This will assist in ensuring consistent responses to county waiver agencies and families on a statewide basis, and assist in accountability. This reorganization will include hiring additional CLTS Children’s Services Specialist (CSS) staff, reviewing the current CSS geographical county assignments, and assessing how to implement the subject matter expert concept.
 - Scheduling a CLTS strategic planning retreat to discuss project planning, program requirements, along with DLTC/BLTS mission and values.
 - Implementing a Youth in Transition committee which will include representatives from the IRIS (I Respect, Include, I Self-Direct) Program, Family Care and the CLTS Waivers.
 - Completing internal strategic planning within the Bureau and identifying updated outcomes; Camille would like input from the CLTS Council on their thoughts on potential outcomes and improvements.
- Camille will continue to work with the CLTS Council Steering Committee to keep lines of communication open and ensure the Council’s core values regarding service delivery to children and families is being addressed.
- Response to Council’s Redesign Recommendations: The Division’s priority is to continue the Family Care and IRIS Program expansion. Expansion is occurring in the following Northeastern counties: Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano. The Department of Health Services (DHS) has established work groups to address Family Care/IRIS expansion. The expansion is targeted to begin by the end of the first quarter of 2015.
- IRIS is in the process of expanding their fiscal agencies and organizations to implement along with coordination with Medicaid to expand service dollars.
- The Care4Kids initiative continues to grow. Phase 2 of the initiative will begin next month, which will expand enrollment of Milwaukee County’s current foster care children.
 - DHS and Department of Children and Families (DCF) have partnered to implement Care4Kids to offer increased access, and comprehensive, coordinated health care services for foster care children. The program was launched on January 1, 2014, in six Southeastern counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha.
 - DHS will be amending the Medicaid State Plan to include this expansion and is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to confirm the additional children can be enrolled in the program and receive access to the coordinated care.
 - Liz H. recommended the Council have input into this effort and how it relates to Medicaid prior authorizations denials and delays for children with disabilities. At this time DHS does not have an identified timeline for further expansion of the Care4Kids program to cover participants other than foster care children.
- CompassWisconsin: Threshold (CWT) will be expanding to Dane County; targeted for January 2015.
- DHS was awarded the Innovations Grant in 9 million dollars for interventions aiming to enhance and expand the Special Needs Program (SNP) model currently in place at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. This grant will serve fragile children with complex medical needs. Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and American Family Children’s Hospital will serve as partners in this grant. BLTS will be partnering with the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability (DHCAA) to review the access details.
 - Sharon F. reported that a child with five or more specialists, emergency room usage,

- hospitalizations etc. will be the target population. Much of the funding will be used for specialized staff for care coordination and administration.
- CMS had issued an operational bulletin which includes deliverables for the Innovations Grant.
- Heart of the Matter Summary Report: Report is not yet available for distribution to the Council; the report will be shared with all stakeholders at the same time.
- Autism Treatment Services: CMS issued a bulletin to State Medicaid Agencies on July 7, 2014, which provided details regarding various Medicaid funding sources for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who needed autism treatment services.
 - CMS indicated the autism treatment services should be a covered service under the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program (known as HealthCheck in Wisconsin). CMS provided little direction and no timelines for the implementation of this change.
 - DLTC will be working jointly with Division of Health Care Access and Accountability (DHCAA) and the Office of Legal Counsel to study CMS expectations.
 - More updates will be shared as the Department reviews all the details and receives further guidance from CMS regarding this issue.
 - Sue will share the CMS Bulletin with the CLTS Council; the Autism Council has already received this CMS Bulletin.
- CMS is requiring states to address residential and pre-vocational services to ensure 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers are meeting the updated regulations, which were published in January 2014.
 - During the next year, states are required to review all their 1915(c) waivers to complete an assessment of their current HCBS settings and develop a transition plan to ensure compliance with the revised regulations.
 - The Department will be submitting a universal HCBS Waiver transition plan to CMS in November 2014.
 - CLTS Council would like to provide input to DHS in developing the CMS transition plan.

4. Council Charge

- Members reviewed the revised CLTS Council charge, with a focus on quality improvement to access to services for children and families. The first step of this process will be to review available data to determine what is needed, in order to have an effective discussion.
 - Nissan provided the Individualized Education Program: Post-secondary Transition Worksheet for committee review and to consider if any of these fields would provide data that may relate to transition and access issues (future data needs).
 - Access for early childhood for children ages three through five years to determine if families are receiving information regarding long-term support services.
 - Discussed statewide statistics for children with disabilities. Walt S. offered to provide this data. Sharon indicated that there may be national data that would also be helpful.
 - Sharon F. reviewed Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program data, using national prevalence data. Discussed the report and data provided. 45 to 50 percent of contacts are for children under age five years, and 25 percent of the contacts for children ages 6-11 years old.
 - Consider Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) data of 18 year olds who transition into Family Care counties (future data need). Camille has a data report she will seek permission to share.
 - Children's Long-Term Support Functional Screen (CLTS FS) data (need demographic data for CLTS Waiver participants, specifically ethnic and socio-economic information). Becky B. will follow up on data possibilities.
 - PROMISE Grant demographics: One child of the 200 PROMISE Grant enrollees is enrolled in the CLTS Waivers. The PROMISE enrollees are recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through the Social Security Administration.
 - Need data of number of children (age 0-18) on SSI due to their disability for CY 2013. (Sue believes we can access this information through their Medicaid status.) Need race, diagnosis or any other information that can be obtained.

- Charity E. provided an overview of the CompassWisconsin: Threshold (CWT) available data for 13 counties, including intake data, application packets sent, home visits completed, eligibility outcomes for CLTS Waivers. Family Support and Community Options funding, as well as statewide intake and eligibility for the Katie Beckett Program (KBP) for CY 2013.
- During next CLTS Council meeting members will review:
 - ADRC 18 year old data (whether previously on CLTS Waivers, eligibility determination, target group)
 - CLTS FS data
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) data
- The Council will review and assess the data and make follow-up recommendations to the Department.

5. Children's Services Section (CSS) Updates – Sue Larsen, Chief

- Draft CSS Quarterly Data Report for Q2 2014: The Council reviewed the 2014 second quarter data report, which includes statistical data regarding enrollment, level of care determinations, fair hearings, etc., for the following programs:
 - Birth to 3 Program
 - CLTS Waivers
 - Family Support Program
 - Katie Beckett Program
- Monthly County CLTS Wait List Report: Sue shared the current CLTS Wait List which is maintained by the county waiver agencies.
 - CLTS Wait List is in the process of being transitioned from the Human Services Resource System (HSRS), a 30-year legacy system, to the Program Participation System (PPS).
 - CLTS Wait List PPS pilot conversion occurred in June 2014 in the 13 CWT counties.
 - County waiver agencies are receiving regular instructions from CSS to review and update their CLTS Wait Lists, as necessary prior to the conversion.
 - Statewide HSRS/PPS CLTS Wait List conversion for all remaining counties is targeted for mid-November 2014.
- CLTS Capacity Building Funds update: Sue relayed that the Department continues to receive applications from county waiver agencies for the CLTS capacity building funds, with proposals for strategies to reduce the number of children waiting for CLTS Waiver services and offer other improvements and efficiencies.
- Strategies include hiring new case management staff, hiring administrative staff to handle third party administration (TPA) processing, purchasing laptops and other IT equipment to reduce workload and increase efficiencies.

6. CLTS Council Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

- The next Council meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 15, 2014.
- Council members made suggestions for the next meeting agenda topics, which include:
 - Department's HCBS waiver transition plan, as it relates to CLTS Waivers
 - Infant, Toddler and Family Medicaid Waiver application status update
 - Connection back to Wingspread report
 - Care4Kids initiative update
 - Update on Children's Section strategic planning efforts
 - CSS quarterly program data report
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.