

Wisconsin Council on Children with Long-Term Support Needs Council

Minutes
October 21, 2009
LaQuinta Hotel
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Madison, WI

Chairperson: Liz Hecht

Members Present: John Shaw, Pilar Guzman, Julie Tukoske, Keith Keller, Jodi Pelishek, Melanie Fralick, Glen Johnson, Sally Mather, Barbara Katz, Walt Schalik, Susan Crowley, Fredi Bove, Beth Wroblewski, Julie Bryda

Guests: Dean Ruppert, LaCrosse County; Amy Whitehead, Marcie Brost, Charity Eleson, Terri Johnson, and Reed Bonner, Department of Health Services (DHS)

Staff Members: Theresa Walske, Katie Sepnieski, DHS

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Liz Hecht welcomed everyone to the Council Meeting and introduced the topics on the agenda.
 - b. Introduction of Council Members and guests.
 - c. Finalized the following dates for 2010 Council meetings; the second Thursday of the month, 2/11, 5/13, 8/12, 11/11.

- II. Department of Health Services Update – Beth Wroblewski
 - a. Family Support
 - i. In calendar year 2008, thirty-nine (39) counties lapsed Family Support Program Funds. Statewide, approximately \$270,000 funds lapsed.
 - ii. The Department is currently assessing Family Support spending trends on a statewide and individual county basis.
 - iii. Members of the council suggested that they could encourage the use of funds by contacting Family Support Program Advisory Committees to make them aware of the potential for under spending.

 - b. Autism Insurance Mandate
 - i. As a result of the insurance mandate passed in the 2009-2011 Biennium Budget, November 1, 2009 affected private insurances could start coverage of services for individuals

with autism. The date of coverage is based on the start date of insurance provisions. The Department anticipates the largest impact to be Jan 1, 2010.

- ii. The Department estimates 1/4 to 1/3 of families in Wisconsin will be affected.
- iii. The Department is developing a question and answer document for families and providers. In addition, training for counties and providers will be offered.
- iv. Council members suggested including members of Family Voices and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs in the trainings.

c. Birth to 3

- i. Wisconsin received \$8 million in ARRA Funds. \$3 million will be provided to the counties. The remaining funds will be used at the state level for statewide infrastructure building.
- ii. The Department has formalized an application process for counties to access funds. The Wisconsin County Health Services Association (WCHSA) is currently reviewing and commenting on the plan.
- iii. In addition to the ARRA funds, three additional initiatives passed in the 2009-2011 Biennial Budget that will provide opportunities for counties to increase funding to Birth to 3; a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver specifically for Birth to 3, Medicaid reimbursement for special instructors, and Medicaid full cost reporting for therapy services.

d. Personal Care Services

- i. Based on recommendations from this Council and others the Department supported an emergency rule in the Biennium Budget to allow additional agencies to provide personal care services. DQA will certify providers.

e. Children Transition to Adult Services

- i. The Department reminded counties in an e-mail dated October 15, 2009, that Children registered on the Human Services Reporting System (HSRS) as waiting for long-term services and who are at least 17 years of age in Family Care counties, or at least 21 years of age in non-Family Care counties, may be eligible for CLTS Waiver funding until they transition into managed care services

f. Disability Determination

- i. Julie Bryda provided an update to Council Member's comments and concerns from the July 2009 meeting

regarding applications for disability determinations. The Bureau of Long-Term Supports is actively working in partnership with the Disability Determination Bureau to identify barriers and support families to receive Disability Determinations. In addition, the Bureau is working with Counties to determine how long children have been waiting, identify barriers and support families to receive Disability Determinations and work within state and local funding to access Waiver services.

- g. Medicaid Rate Reform
 - i. Fredi-Ellen Bove, Deputy Division Administrator, provided information regarding the Medicaid Rate Reform.
 - ii. Budget bill required Medicaid to save \$600 million. It was driven by an unusually tight budget cycle. The Dept started a thoughtful process of looking at the Medicaid Program to identify savings by improving how services are provided. Stakeholders were asked to participate.
 - iii. The Department and stakeholders identified cost savings that resulted in: no cuts to benefits or eligibility; no single provider type would absorb the majority of cuts; and to the extent possible, did not change the way purchase of services occurred, eliminate redundancy, and follow best practices.
 - iv. Three measures that affect private duty nursing: (1) eliminates the care coordination payment for private duty nursing for members who are ventilator dependent. (2) Restructure rates to provide disincentive to work long hours in excess of 8 hours. (3) Restructure payment to private duty nursing, reimburse for services to patients with higher needs.
 - v. Council members voiced concerns regarding the changes to private duty nursing services. Fredi invited continued dialogue and comment.

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- III. Discussion with Susan Crowley, Division Administrator
 - a. Susan Crowley met Council Members.
 - b. Liz Hecht provided a historical account of the purpose and the accomplishments of the Council. Liz encouraged Council Members to e-mail her with accomplishments that were not identified on her white paper.
- IV. CLTS Compass: Mapping Support Directions with Families
 - a. Overview and plans and progress to date was summarized by Beth Wroblewski

- i. Great progress has been made including additional funding through the 2009-2011 Biennium Budget.
 - ii. The Department estimates 1,000 new children will be served over the next two biennium through the CLTS Waivers.
 - iii. The Department would like to develop CompassWisconsin within the coming months and define its identity.

- b. New funding and progress on Waiting Lists
 - i. Julie Bryda reported on the reduction of CLTS Waitlists.
 - ii. The Department has taken several actions:
 - Information Memo 2009-04 provided information to counties regarding new funding
http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/dsl_info/InfoMemos/DLTC/CY2009/IMemo2009_04.htm;
 - Numbered Memo 2009-11 provided information regarding waitlists
http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/dsl_info/NumberedMemos/DLTC/CY2009/NMemo2009_11.pdf; and
 - An email was sent to all counties identifying transition funds continue to be available; and monthly statewide conference calls with all counties.
 - iii. Initially, the CLTS Team will focus efforts in large counties with the most children to serve. They will also provide support to counties that are serving very few children.

- c. Information, assistance, and resources access
 - i. Sally Mather reported that through the Katie Beckett Program Contract with the Department she is working to evaluate access to the Waiver across counties. Charity Elson is leading this project.
 - ii. The purpose is to understand how children access the Waivers. County staff, state staff, advocates, and other stakeholders will be interviewed. They will also use Department resources such as data, the Human Services Reporting System (HSRS), functional screens, and appeals to understand the experiences and challenges of accessing the waivers. Review of good work has been done in this area; such as the Foundation paper and Compass paper by the Council, as well as state papers. Analysis of what was learned, recommendations most constructive to create a consolidated point of intake. Recommendations will be made based on what is learned.
 - iii. Efforts are currently focused in the southeast region of the State, representing a significant amount of children to be served. A summary of findings will be provided to the Department at the end of the year.

- d. Increase state and local capacity for quality assurance
 - i. Marcie Brost and Terri Johnson are interviewing counties to learn what capacity issues or barriers, and opportunities are available at the local level with the new funding.
 - ii. Recommendations will be provided based on what is learned.

- e. Discussion
 - i. Beth Wroblewski reported these activities honor the directions given by the Council to move forward and will allow more information as we enter into the next biennium budget.
 - ii. More information will be provided at the February 11, 2010 Council Meeting.
 - iii. Council members had questions related to scope and activities.

V. CLTS Waiver Quality Update

a. Family Survey

- i. Reed Bonner provided an update on Family Surveys. The Family Survey has been distributed. It is available in English and Spanish. More than 3,000 families received a copy. Counties were notified via e-mail that the survey would be mailed and a copy of the survey.
- ii. Council members questioned if versions will be printed in Hmong. Beth Wroblewski identified this is a goal in the future.
- iii. Council members indicated that the survey was long and intimidating. There were concerns not all voices will be heard due to literacy level and length. Council members suggested that in the future other accommodations be made for families. Beth Wroblewski reported that this survey is shorter than the last survey but agrees that there should be revisions in the future. Reed will provide information on those questions that were valuable with a goal to further shorten in the future.
- iv. Council Members questioned why only waiver participants are being surveyed and not Family Support participants. Beth Wroblewski clarified that the purpose of the survey is for federal accountability to evaluate the work we do.
- v. Council Members would like a summary of the survey data at the May 2010 Council Meeting.
- vi. Liz offered that Council Members who had access of list serv, could send out basic information on the list serv

encouraging families to complete the survey in the future.
Reed will work with Liz.

- b. TMG Report, County Capacity
 - i. At the request of Council Members at the July 2009 Council meeting, a copy of the COP CIP assessment by TMG was passed around. It is anticipated a similar report will be generated for CLTS Waivers in the future.
 - ii. Katie Sepnieski is working with TMG to coapprove CLTS plans.
- c. Record Reviews
 - i. Currently state staff have completed about 60% of all county record reviews.
 - ii. Additional information will be provided at the May 2010 CLTS Council Meeting.
- d. Corrective Action Plans
 - i. Currently six corrective actions have been issued to six different counties.

VI. Additional Topics

- a. Sally Mather provided information regarding disability determinations. Individuals may begin the process of applying for an adult disability determination up to 6 months prior to their 18 birthday through SSA.gov. Fiscal information would need to be submitted after the individual's 18 birthday. Sally provided information if someone would like to participate in pilot.

VII. Wrap-up

- a. Approve minutes from July 27th meeting
 - Barb Katz made a motion to approve the minutes. Glen Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- b. Future agenda items
 - i. Report of CompassWisconsin activities
 - ii. Group discussion of how Council Members may help shepherd ideas.
 - iii. Family Survey results
 - iv. County Record Review Results