

## Wisconsin Council on Children with Long-Term Support Needs

February 11, 2010  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Madison, WI

Chairperson: Liz Hecht

Members Present: John Shaw, Julie Tukoske, Sue Gilbertson, Jennifer Stegall, Barbara Katz, Saphronia Purnell, Linda Van Ness, Lynn Green, Keith Keller, Hugh Davis, Sally Mather, Pilar Guzman, Dondieneita Fleary Simmons, Susan Crowley, Fredi-Ellen Bove, Beth Wroblewski, Julie Bryda

Guests: Kristi Halverson, parent; Charity Ellison; Terri Johnson

Staff Members: Katie Sepnieski, Theresa Walske, DHS

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Liz Hecht
  - a. Review of agenda.
  - b. Introduction of Council Members and guests.
  
- II. Review of Minutes-Liz Hecht
  - a. Edits to the Minutes were made.
  - b. John Shaw motioned to accept minutes.
  - c. Barbara Katz seconded minutes.
  - d. All in Favor-approved.
  
- III. CompassWisconsin Mapping Long Term Supports with Children and Families – Beth Wroblewski
  - a. Beth provided the history of recommendations and proposals for Children’s Long-Term Care Redesign made by the Wisconsin Council on Children with Long-Term Support Needs. The Foundations Paper continues to be the framework.
  - b. Beth provided an overview of activities being completed within the Department to support children with long-term support needs, families, and counties.
  - c. Children’s Redesign has been named “CompassWisconsin”. This is a positive image for families. The Department will continue to work on branding and the images or identity associated with the initiative.
  - d. Beth encouraged discussion by the Council as information is presented about CompassWisconsin.

- IV. CompassWisconsin Threshold; Creating a Unified Intake and Eligibility Model for Children's Long-Term Support Services
- a. The current contract for implementation of the Katie Beckett Program includes the expectation that the contractor would review, create, and launch a unified intake process in one area of the State. Sally Mather & Associates hold this contract.
  - b. Sally Mather & Associates reviewed the current intake process for Children's Waivers and Family Support Program across the state. Fifty-five (55) people were interviewed including families, counties, advocates and providers from several Southeastern counties (Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth and Waukesha). A review was conducted for federal and state policies and procedures, data related to children receiving services and those waiting, and reports and recommendations.
  - c. Recommended implementation of regular and well-managed outreach to parents and organizations, accessible and understandable printed and web-based information to help families understand services and application processes, intake processes that produce higher rates of accuracy and are in alignment with state and federal policies, a single point of intake and consolidated application for families to apply for Children's Long-Term Support Waiver (CLTS Waiver), Katie Beckett, Family Support Program and Community Options Program (COP), and timely and efficient application processes.
  - d. CompassWisconsin Threshold, a consolidated intake approach, will be initiated in April, 2010 in Walworth and Racine Counties. It is anticipated 500 children will be served.
  - e. Council members provided the following feedback.
    - i. A centralized intake point would be a good idea. Did the DHS consider partnering with existing Aging and Disability Resources Centers (ADRC)? DHS Response: Beth identified this was considered. However, the ADRCs have been designed to work and support adults. Children require different supports than adults and there was a concern that children could not be adequately supported in this context.
    - ii. The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Regional Centers could be considered as a central access point. DHS Response: This initiative is coordinated with the CYSHCN Regional Centers but the roles differ.
    - iii. There is a need provide information to families whose primary language is not English. DHS Response: This is in process.
    - iv. Outreach to doctors and clinics is important.
    - v. There should be a web based application. DHS Response: DHS will have a website but has inadequate resources for online applications at this time.
    - vi. What is the timeline to go statewide and what will happen when families move or relocate? DHS Response: This is an initial pilot and a broader implementation timeline is not yet established.

- vii. Please clarify how the Department identified 500 children would be served in Walworth and Racine County. DHS Response: This number includes children who are currently in the system, those anticipated to continue, and experience with the programs.
- viii. Clarify the roles of Walworth and Racine Counties. DHS Response: DHS is in discussion with the counties and will describe roles in writing. The counties will still be responsible for delivering services.
- ix. Families build trust with the individual completing the intake and eligibility process. How will the process assist the family to transition to the county for services? DHS Response: This will be learned as we go forward with the pilot. The intent is to assure smooth transitions for families and children to service provisions.

V. CompassWisconsin: State-Local Relationships

- a. Twenty-two (22) staff and administrators from 14 counties were interviewed. Individuals and counties were selected to achieve a representative sample based on: Geographic location, past experience in implementing CLTS, and timing of Family Care implementation.
- b. Counties interviewed want to maintain CLTS responsibilities, expressed responsibility and ownership of CLTS, there is good experience and ability among many county staff and a desire to learn among those less experienced, Family Care restructuring has created many challenges but has had a positive impact in some counties in terms of integrating CLTS with county mental health and/or child welfare, Counties interviewed view multi-county or regional administration of CLTS as undesirable and infeasible, and County funding and infrastructure are under intense pressure; adding new children without needed infrastructure has resulted in a system that is shaky in its ability to maintain core CLTS values and that puts children and families at increased risk.
- c. Counties reported the following trends: A growing number of referrals of children who have complex long-term support needs and roadblocks to improving service responses have been created by structure and policies of state and federal agencies.
- d. It is recommended that the Department assure favorable CLTS Waiver results by allocating adequate staff time and seek expert help, fully develop the “family-directed services” option that exists under the current waiver, and align renewal with CLTS vision and DHS goals of simplification; Increase efficiency and flexibility of CLTS process; and build networks and improve relationships.
- e. Council members provided the following feedback.
  - i. The Council needs to understand how much funding Family Care dedicated to services and infrastructure.
  - ii. Additional state staff resources are necessary to accomplish any new initiatives. The Council should make this recommendation.

- iii. There needs to be away to make children's programs more efficient, less complicated and more transparent for families. There is a need to coordinate all children's programs. Functional screen guidance to the counties seems to change. There appears to be a difficulty at the county level with coordination with other programs serving children especially with mental health. Parents do not have an understanding of what services may or may not be covered. There should be a summit of programs that serve children to streamline processes.
- iv. Council should be actively involved as DHS moves forward with federal waiver renewal.
- v. Concerns were expressed about whether families are learning about waivers from counties. In the central point of access please clarify who is responsible for informing families of opportunities available in their county? Please clarify, is there an appeal or informal appeal process if eligibility is denied?
- vi. It is important that counties are all providing the same information.

#### LUNCH

- VI. Council members provided updates
  - a. Wisconsin Family Ties is sponsoring Family Fun Day at Mt. Olympus Feb 21, 2010.
  - b. Family Voices has a new enhanced web site; please visit.
  - c. Families in multiple counties are having problems with accessing Family Support funding due to the need to have a Medicaid denial to access the funding.
  - d. Under Department of Children and Families, relatives now need to be licensed to be foster care parents.
  - e. Circles of Life is April 29 and 30 in Stevens Point, WI. The theme of Family Fun night is "Life is a Circus." Contact Katie Sepnieski for brochures. If you know of an organization who would like to sponsor a speaker, please contact John Shaw.
  
- VII. Medicaid Rate Reform
  - a. Fredi-Ellen Bove, Deputy Division Administrator, provided information regarding the Medicaid Rate Reform.
  - b. This is as a result of the 2009-2011 Wisconsin Biennial Budget (2009 Act 28), which requires Wisconsin Medicaid to implement rate reforms required Medicaid to save approximately \$600 million.
  - c. Caseloads are higher than projected by the initial Biennium Budget resulting in an increased budget deficit. Budget saving activities have again been initiated.
  - d. Based on consumer and advocate feedback, DHS is no longer pursuing: LPN rate for nursing services; private duty nursing differential rate; and

personal care reimbursement to an acquity system. This was discussed as an issue at the last Council meeting.

- e. About 1,500 waiver participants are affected by the DHS contract with J&B Medical Supply for incontinent supplies. J&B Medical Supply was to call all recipients, complete an assessment over the phone, and support the client with incontinence products prior to March 1, 2010. After March 2010 J&B Medical Supply is the only vendor. Division of Long Term Care (DLTC) staff do not know if every person has been contacted. DLTC staff encourages families to work with J&B Medical Supply and try samples of products. DLTC is tracking this issue and is interested in feedback.
- f. Fredi reviewed suggested cost saving measures and indicated that these are not final DHS decisions.
- g. Council members invited to express ideas or concerns regarding rate reform ideas to Jason Helgerson or Fredi.
- h. Lynn Breedlove is participating in the meetings. If a Council member would like to participate in March 8 meeting, contact Fredi.
- i. Council members expressed appreciation to Fredi for speaking with the Council.
- j. Sue Gilbertson shared a cost saving idea related to the prior authorization process. Add an idea to eliminate prior authorization for therapies. Fredi will share idea with Division of Health Care Access and Accountability.

#### VIII.

##### Wrap-up

- a. Counties are accessing the new allocations provided for the CLTS Waivers in the 2009-2011 Biennium Budget. All counties are working to serve children. Four counties have fully utilized funding to serve new children in their county.
- b. DHS anticipates there will be under spending in calendar year 2009 for Family Support Program funds despite efforts of counties. DHS is looking at budget initiatives to carry forward future under spending comparable to COP.
- c. Council members who have questions regarding the Autism Insurance Mandate should contact Katie Sepnieski or Julie Bryda.
- d. Carol Noddings Eichinger has resigned as the Birth to 3 Program Coordinator. She has accepted a position at the Waisman Center. DLTC hopes to prioritize this position for hire.
- e. Sue Larsen has been hired as the new Project Managers for Birth to 3 ARRA funding.
- f. Next Council meeting is May 13, 2010. It will be held at LaQuinta Inn & Suites, Madison WI.

#### IX.

Council Members identified the following future agenda items

- a. Report of CompassWisconsin activities.
- b. Group discussion of how Council Members may help forward ideas.
- c. Autism Insurance Mandate.
- d. ARRA Update.
- e. Family Survey results.
- f. County Record Review results.