

**Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Council**  
**March 22, 2011**  
**10:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Council Chairperson: Liz Hecht

Council Members: Cheryl Berg, Lynn Breedlove, Sharon Fleischfresser, Sue Gilbertson, Lynn Green, Pilar Guzman, Barbara Katz, Keith Keller, Sally Mather, Jodi Pelishek, Saphronia Purnell, Walt Schalick, Katie Sepnieski, John Shaw, Julie Turkoske, Linda Van Ness

DHS Staff: Sue Larsen, Julie Bryda, Tracey Brent

Guests: Secretary Dennis Smith, Deputy Secretary Kitty Rhoades, Laura Birnbaum-Singler, UW Master's of Social Work Student

**I. Welcome and Introductions—Liz Hecht**

a. Review of Agenda

**II. Updates—Liz Hecht**

Beth Wroblewski has accepted the position as Division of Long Term Care Deputy Administrator. During this transition period, Sue Larsen is the interim Children's Services Section Lead.

**III. Division Updates—Sue Larsen and Liz Hecht**

a. Budget Updates—Sue Larsen

The proposed 2011-2013 biennium budget was released on March 1st. The budget proposes to defer further expansion of Family Care in the next biennium to allow time to review the program's effectiveness. The budget also proposes that, in counties where Family Care, Partnership, PACE, or IRIS are currently offered, the Department may not increase the number of people enrolled in these programs effective June 20, 2011.

The budget proposal also provides new funding to establish ADRCs in counties not currently served by ADRCs. Medicaid Legacy Waivers will also continue for counties that have not implemented long-term care reform.

The budget creates a new appropriation to accept payments from counties for the CLTS and Birth to 3 Waiver programs to pay provider claims through a third party administrator (TPA) process. Counties will continue to administer and authorize provider services under these programs. The new TPA process is needed to comply with federal requirements for claims processing and data reporting.

b. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)—Liz Hecht

CMS conducted an on site technical assistance review the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>, which was a successful visit. Several members of the Council members participated in the site visit. CMS found consistency among the counties concerns and left with a better understanding of the Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Waivers policies and procedures. CMS is interested

in the TPA claims process, and would like frequent status updates. CMS is also interested in the pilot of the new CLTS Waivers record review process and would also like to be updated with its progress.

#### **IV. Outcomes for the Discussion with Secretary Dennis Smith**

The Secretary has three areas of interest regarding Medicaid benefits for children with long-term support needs: 1) self-direction, 2) care coordination and integration, and 3) Medicaid cost-efficiencies.

The Council has three areas of concern that they would like to bring up to Secretary Smith: 1) Medicaid card services, 2) CLTS Waivers, and 3) cost shifting as a result of other systems.

The overall goal of the Council is to keep families strong and healthy. The Council is willing to act as an expert panel on advice and problem solving for the Secretary. The Council is willing to establish a task force to help filter appropriate suggestions, and to make sure families with children with long-term support needs have the opportunity to provide their input.

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#### **V. Council Overview and Budget Recommendations—Liz Hecht**

The Council has two concerns regarding the proposed budget: stress on other resources, and erosion of services.

a. Stress on other resources

As a result of the proposed budget cuts, the Council believes stress will occur on other programs which will ultimately lead to an increase in Medicaid services. Secretary Smith views public programs as a system, rather than individually. He views Medicaid as picking up the slack where other programs haven't done their job.

b. Erosion of services

The Council is concerned that cuts and changes to Medicaid services could cause a downward spiral. Families could potentially lose their jobs which could result in loss of private insurance. It also could remove places for youth to go, and could lead to neglect or out-of-home placement.

Secretary Smith is interested in collaborating with a Council task force to monitor these issues and take advantage of their expertise. Secretary Smith believes in building on the existing structure, rather than starting from scratch. The Secretary agreed that he and the Council can work to identify recommended changes.

#### **VI. Next Steps—Council Dialogue**

The Council has agreed to set up listening sessions (possibly videoconferences) with families of children with long-term support needs, to ensure their input is heard. The Council will form two task forces; 1) task force to focus on self-determination and family direction, and 2) task force to focus on Medicaid cost-savings.

The self-determination task force will establish a definition for family-directed services, what they would like to see from the program, and find out what works and what doesn't work. The Medicaid cost-savings task force will help set up forums for families and will help Secretary Smith filter feedback into appropriate suggestions based on their expertise.

Volunteers for these task forces are: Lynn Breedlove, Liz Hecht, Barb Katz, Sally Mather, John Shaw, and Julie Turkoske. Lynn Green also offers staff support.

Lynn Breedlove and Liz Hecht will work on a follow-up letter to be sent to Secretary Smith regarding his feedback and willingness to work with the Council.

**VII. Adjourned at 3:02 PM**