

HCBS Reform Community Forums

Fall 2016

Thursday, December 8, 2016 – Soldotna

Comments/Questions/Input

- Presentation was from the State's aspect, but how does it affect other types of eligible people, such as veterans? Veteran's Administration often reflects on the State's perspective yet it does not make the recipient eligible in the VA or at SDS. How does the State address that?
A: Communication is key. Reaching out to the VA to discuss our ideas surrounding these programs is one way.
- Alaska has a lot of PTSD, son and husband both have it. Does not make them eligible for this, but many refuse the services of the VA. VA says the Tribe has it, Tribe says the VA has it, VA blames the State. A: Dir. Mayes will give folks his card, so they can reach out to him to discuss this afterwards. SDS will tell staff to assist people that call with trying to get through the system.
- Once you identify service providers, how will you train and communicate the plans to the care coordinators? How will you roll this out with positions?
A: Incrementally. Adding more training and hoping that workforce will shift to meet the demand.
Example: Not enough nursing home beds.
A: Certificate of Need is a very defined process that looks at the needs in communities. Two of these were recently approved to increase the number of beds in the Mat-Su Valley.
- Unless we have more revenue, this is all going to blow up. We are going to end up with Draconian cuts. A: There are new people in the legislature. We have already absorbed \$26 million. We do a good job of realizing our own cost controls, and we ran the numbers and can explain that to the legislature. If you take people out of HCBS services, you will increase the number drastically. It is important to tell advocacy groups that they have to advocate with the senators on the need for HCBS waivers.
- New tool: some people might not be eligible under the new tool. Are you testing that?
A: Yes, the tool is normed and validated; it is a whole suite of tools and is very vetted. The Level of Care criterion is different in every state, so Alaska has set aside money to assist in developing algorithms to ensure, that the tool meets our needs.
- The system is already fairly restrictive. How will you add the K without being too restrictive in that and still roll people over into it? A: Combo cases ... many of those 1600 people will move over to the K for the enhanced match. We will still allow people to enroll in PCA.
- There are 900 folks that are moving over to a new supports waiver. Do they have to meet in ICF/MR level of care? A: A large portion would have to meet that level of care, but the individuals that do not would have money held over to be able to serve people.

- If a person was on the supports waiver, could they move to a C waiver in the future? A: Yes; we don't have details around that yes, but we will build some flexibility.
- How do we communicate? A: We go through beneficiary boards to communicate to the general public.
- Washington State enabled a program through senior assistance to enlist service animals that reduce the care by 32% instead of a PCA coming into the home. Has Alaska done anything with that? A: No, AK has not done that.
- SMI will move under the new program from the HCBS waiver? A: No, they are not currently funded under the HCBS waiver. They are served by GR with General Fund dollars at 100% from the State.
- The Supports waiver will be available in January 2018, so should I be telling my families now? A: No, we will be working on a communications plan, so give a broad overview until we have communicated further.
- Are there any plans to move money saved in screenings at ADRC to senior grants? Seeing people go from grant to a higher level of care is what we are seeing. A: No, we did not intend to have cuts, but the legislature cut the grants. I do not know, if we will be able to move it to Senior Grants; instead we would move the admin claiming to support more ADRC's and make it a cleaner front door. Get the right people in the right services at the right time.