

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES**

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CHOICES COUNCIL  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 4, 2015**

**Voting Members:**

Art Delaune  
Banarsi Lal  
Alavini Lata – not present  
Karli Lopez  
Sara Kveum  
Bruce van Dusen  
Rusty Best  
Ken Helander  
Patricia Branson  
Cindy Shults – not present  
Mary Schaeffer

**Advisors:**

Theresa Brisky  
Allison Lee  
Kim Champney  
Tom Chard – not present  
Dave Branding  
Marianne Mills  
Connie Beemer  
Mellisa Heflin  
Sandra Heffern  
Denise Shelton

**Facilitators:**

Duane Mayes, SDS  
Lori Weiselberg, HMA  
Shane Spotts, HMA

**Guests:**

Albert Wall, DBH  
Amanda Lofgren AMHTA  
Ulf Petersen, SDS  
Deb Etheridge, SDS  
Jetta Whittaker, SDS

## **WELCOME, BRIEF INTRODUCTION, AND ROLL CALL**

Roll call of voting members and advisory members was taken, and guests were introduced.

## **NEW ADVISORY MEMBER – DENISE SHELTON, CARE COORDINATION NETWORK**

Duane Mayes shared with the Council the importance of having representation from the Care Coordination Network on this Council. Duane introduced Denise Shelton, who then shared her background with the group.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Lori Weiselberg directed Council members to the minutes from the previous meeting and briefly reviewed them with the group.

Allison Lee noted that the suggested Council name of Inclusive Community Choices was incorrectly attributed to her, and it was Karli Lopez that made that suggestion.

Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved as amended.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STONE SOUP GROUP'S PARENT CONFERENCE**

Duane Mayes stated that Stone Soup Group approached him to do a presentation on 1915(i) and (k) during their Parent Conference on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. He asked for Council volunteers to accompany him for that presentation. Volunteers included Rusty Best and Karli Lopez. Duane Mayes also noted that they may receive additional requests for presentations, especially during the session, and he may call on other Council members to help out.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – UPDATE AND PLANS**

Duane Mayes stated that the following events have taken place:

### Anchorage

- SMI, TBI, I/DD, and ADRD provider forums.
- Community forum.

### Fairbanks

- I/DD and behavioral health provider meetings.
- Community forum.

### Barrow

- Lunch and Learn event at the hospital.
- Senior presentation.
- Community forum.

Duane noted that in addition to these more formalized meetings, they also completed site visits in the various locations.

December 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, the group will be traveling to Kenai, Nome, and Bethel, and the first week in January they will go to Ketchikan, Juneau, and the Mat-Su Valley.

Mary Schaeffer noted that even though they have a crunched timeframe, the sooner they can let communities know about these events, the greater chances they will have for a larger turnout. She also suggested doing radio spots for rural areas as well as putting something on the local television channels.

Duane Mayes shared his concerns about areas of the state they will be unable to reach for a face-to-face presentation. Ken Helander suggested exploring the idea of a community blog or running dialogue that communities can share and contribute information on this issue. He stated that it could provide the kind of input that they are looking for about how people's lives will be impacted by these options.

Rusty Best stated that he feels it will be really important to ensure that the information be presented to community members in a way that they can understand and can relate to. He believes this information can be overwhelming and can cause the community to fear the changes. Al Wall agreed that the same is true even for providers within the behavioral health world, and they need to ensure that providers are aware that these changes are going to affect them in terms of how they care for their patients.

A suggestion was made to create a project overview video that could be posted to the website that could be used to start community conversations. Sara Kveum agreed with this concept and felt it would be a helpful tool for educating people with disabilities about these options. Pat Branson agreed that it would be a very useful tool for the areas of the state where no face-to-face forums will be held. Pat added that the Human Service Coalition in Kodiak might be an avenue for holding a forum. Amanda Lofgren noted that most rural communities have a provider coalition. A suggestion was made to try to identify and reach out to the community leader in the upcoming forums to make that person the liaison to connect with the community and share information.

Al Wall noted that the CAP was not included in the behavioral health provider forum when it was held in Anchorage. Mary Schaeffer added that behavioral health service groups are in all of the communities, and they should be utilized for their input.

Another suggestion was made to create two separate videos, one for people receiving services and other for providers of service. Rusty Best felt that the Anchorage provider forums and the community forum were presented appropriately to their intended audiences.

An additional suggestion was made to hold videoconference forums.

It was also noted that there may be labor and fiscal constraints to the State implementing some of these concepts.

Karli Lopez addressed the idea of community perceptions and concerns about not enough information being provided about this project by stating that because this project is in its

beginning stages, there isn't anything to report on or communicate yet.

### **STAKEHOLDER THEMES AND QUESTIONS**

Lori Weiselberg stated that they have compiled the key messages from the Anchorage forums, and they are taking the themes and questions and are putting them into a frequently asked question and answer document on the website. She reminded Council members that at the end of all the stakeholder forums, there will be a statewide webinar on January 13th for people to participate in.

Lori Weiselberg stated that she reviewed the transcripts from the forums and developed common themes, which she shared with the Council members. Again, this information will be available on the website under common themes.

Council members engaged in a brief discussion regarding the traumatic brain injury stakeholder group and showed an interest in the peer support/transition living specialist concept noting the overall need to coordinate services statewide for people with TBI.

Duane Mayes commented that during the community forums in Fairbanks and Barrow, community members brought forth complaints and issues about other DHSS divisions, which highlighted the need for a no-wrong-door approach for consumers.

Ken Helander commented about the needs to strengthen the ability of families to care for seniors with more resources in their homes. He suggested the possibility of building in the ability to assess caregivers' capacities and needs to fill that role. He also shared his concerns about the way they think of institutional settings for seniors, and he expressed his feelings that Pioneers Homes and assisted living homes are also institutional in nature. He feels their goal should be to help people stay at home where they feel at home. His final comments involved seniors with behavioral issues being placed at API, and he noted that it is a result of the state having no treatment programs available for seniors with behavioral problems, such as a geriatric specialty in psychiatry. Mary Schaeffer agreed and shared some personal experiences.

### **PROJECT SCOPE EXPANSION**

#### **DJJ Transition-Aged Youth**

Deb Etheridge shared that it has been brought to their attention that there are youth who are in Division of Juvenile Justice facilities who aren't able to transition out because they don't have the support of transition services or they are not successful in transition. She stated that they are looking to expand the project scope to extend to youth with SMI, TBI, and I/DD, so the population group will not change, but the age range would. These are transition-age youth that would otherwise be served with general fund dollars that they could fold into 1915(i) services. Duane Mayes added that although this Council has not yet discussed it, this project has been directed toward adults.

Shane Spotts added that the 1915(k) option is already tied to a level of care, so there is no age

restriction on it, per se. He stated that it is within the state's purview to put limitations on the 1915(i) populations served. He noted that they are getting all of the details on the populations being served in the various programs, and as soon as they have all the data, they will be able to do an analysis to determine the most cost effective ways to proceed.

Allison Lee asked about the 1915(k) option for transitional costs and if that was only targeted toward nursing/inpatient facilities or if it extended to assisted living homes as well. Shane Spotts stated that he will look into that.

#### *Amending Nursing Facility Level of Care to Include Adults with ADRD*

Deb Etheridge stated that within the larger Medicaid reform effort, there was a proposal to explore looking at Alaska's nursing facility level of care and whether or not they could amend it to include adults with ADRD who just need supervision and cueing. This amendment would be serving people through the 1915(c) waiver and/or the 1915(k) option. There was a desire from the larger reform stakeholder group to include this initiative within this project. Deb stated that another arm of Health Management Associates has already collected data on this, and the team working on this project can include that in their analysis.

Advisors engaged in a discussion on the need for a new assessment tool. Shane Spotts reminded the Council that exploring a new tool is within the scope of this contract.

#### *FEEDBACK ON THE WEBSITE*

Ulf Peterson reminded Council members that he sent them a link to the new website. He reviewed the specific details regarding the contents of the site and asked for any feedback.

Karli Lopez suggested putting the dates for the public forums on the first page of the website, and if not that, at least swap the major themes summary and the dates on its current page, because the dates are smaller and off to the side and people may not be able to find them easily.

#### *SELECT PROGRAM NAME*

Shane Spotts reminded Council members that a new name for this group was discussed at the last meeting and suggestions were made. Sandra Heffern was going to check with the larger Medicaid redesign stakeholder group to determine if they had any preference of name for this group, but she was unable to ask them during their last meeting.

#### **VOTE:**

The Council members voted to approve the name Inclusive Community Choices, and it was approved unanimously.

Shane Spotts stated that he will work on re-branding some of the materials and substitute the generic 1915(i) and (k) to reflect Inclusive Community Choices.

## **UPDATE ON HMA PROGRESS ON SELECTED TASKS**

Shane Spotts reported that in addition to the current work on stakeholder engagement, they are working on the statutory and regulatory review and operational review. He has tasked his group with getting a high-level understanding of the authority needed to implement (i) and (k) and feels it is the main statutory changes that will impact the legislature in the upcoming session. They are also identifying in the regulations where they will need to make changes when the time comes. He reported that they plan to provide a summary to this group at the January 5<sup>th</sup> all-day meeting. In preparation for that January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council is also going to be provided an operational review of the current processes and how they will be impacted by federal regulations. HMA will also be able to provide a matrix of services currently offered and services that can be offered under the (i) and (k).

Shane Spotts stated that in January they will begin working on the assessment reviews and other tasks. Simultaneously they have been working on, and will continue to work on, a large data request made to the state of everyone being served by any of the (c) waivers, State Plan PCA program, and SDS or DBH grants to determine their utilization levels so they can start to parse through it and understand who could fall where to compare individuals being served and dollars spent.

## **REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

**January 5, 2016 – All-day meeting at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Ulf Petersen asked for a poll of people who will be traveling from outside of Anchorage to attend this meeting so that they can connect with the travel office to make arrangements. Members who have committed to attending the face-to-face meeting include: Pat Branson, Art Delaune, Bruce van Dusen, Sara Kveum, Banarsi Lal, and Mary Schaeffer. Duane Mayes will reach out to Cindy Shults and Alavini Lata to determine their travel needs. Duane Mayes noted that it is preferred that advisors attend this meeting in person as well.

The future meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month via teleconference from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Another all-day, face-to-face meeting will be scheduled in possibly May or June.

## **PLAN FOR JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING**

In addition to the reporting as was mentioned above, Shane Spotts asked for suggestions to add to the content of the January 5<sup>th</sup> all-day meeting. Duane Mayes asked for a preliminary discussion about exploring the different assessment tools. Duane mentioned that they will also do a debriefing of provider and community forums.

Shane Spotts feels that at the January meeting HMA will have enough information to provide a current environmental assessment of Alaska relative to the services and operations they are looking at for this scope of work. He feels it will be a good opportunity to have an open

dialogue about what they see as strengths and weaknesses in the system and how they can start to reshape it going forward, and he sees this as a big part of the agenda.

**ADJOURN**

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.