

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES  
  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CHOICES COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 2, 2016**

**Voting Members:**

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

**Advisors:**

Theresa Brisky  
Allison Lee  
Amanda Faulkner  
Tom Chard, not present  
Dave Branding, not present  
Marianne Mills  
Connie Beemer  
Mellisa Heflin, not present  
Sandra Heffern  
Denise Shelton

**Facilitator:**

Duane Mayes, SDS

**Guests:**

Amanda Lofgren, AMHTA  
Patrick Reinhart, GCDSE  
Denise Daniello, ACoA  
Steve Lutzky, HCBS Strategies  
Rodney George, SDS  
Ulf Petersen, SDS  
Jetta Whittaker, SDS  
Lisa McGuire, SDS  
Sherice Cole, SDS

Minutes prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER, 11:00 a.m.**  
**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Roll call of voting members and advisory members was taken.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Duane Mayes explained that the minutes from the September 30, 2016 meeting are not yet finalized. Once they are completed, he will e-mail them to council members for approval.

## **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY FORUMS**

Duane Mayes stated that a second round of community forums has been completed in the communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Juneau, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Kodiak. They are in the process of compiling all of the comments in a formalized document to upload to the Inclusive Community Choices Council webpage, and he provided the following snapshot of comments they received as follows:

### **Positives:**

- Tiered assessment system with the interRAI.
- 1915(c) supports waiver, although some concerns were voiced about people on the Community Developmental Disability Grants (CDDG) that will not be found eligible for the 1915(c) supports waiver.
- Individualized budgets for recipients.
- Roll out of the 1915(k)
- Implementation of the interRAI as the assessment tool.
- 1915(k) supervision and cueing.
- 1915(k) emergency backup systems

### **Negatives:**

- Inconsistency among SDS assessors.
- Southeast needs a provider that supplies medisets.
- People do not like the current assessment tools of the ICAP and the CAT.
- Many people voiced concerns about their inability to get access to help or information from the Division of Public Assistance.
- Care coordinators expressed concerns about what the 1915(k) means to their world and the capacity to handle the changes.
- Transportation issues, particularly the Fairbanks area.
- MMIS system and Xerox.
- Developmental Disability Registry and Review draw being reduced from 200 per quarter to 50 people per quarter.
- No certified environmental modification providers in the Kotzebue area.
- Lack of services for the FASD population.

### **General Comments:**

- Be mindful of the growing populations of seniors with ADRD, children with autism, and FASD population.
- Look at the state of Ohio's home and community-based services.
- Strongly heard the need to reconsider a 1915(i) for the ADRD population.
- Concerns for veterans diagnosed with SMI.

- Concerns for veterans going into the prison system.
- Need structured training in place for providers for the 1915(k).
- Make village-based counselors community health aides.

Ken Helandar asked if there were any thoughts nationally on what may happen to Medicaid with the new administration. Duane Mayes had heard that any changes may take two to three years to accomplish. Steve Lutzky added that he understands that if a Medicaid block grant system for states becomes a reality, states will presumably be funded at their current rate of use.

### **UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS**

Duane Mayes explained the schedule for the upcoming community forums as follows:

- Soldotna/Kenai, December 8, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Homer, December 9, 2016, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Anchorage, January 12, 2017, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Mat-Su Valley, January 17, 2017, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Statewide webinar, date to be determined.
- Town hall forums for families and recipients will be dependent on legislative session schedule and time availability.

### **I/DD SUPPORTS WAIVER UPDATE**

Duane Mayes shared that Robin Cooper has been providing technical assistance to the State with the I/DD supports waiver as well as supports for individuals with complex behavioral challenges. He stated that he may be able to share that report with members of this council. He then read a portion of her report and highlighted the recommendations to the State.

The first recommendation is to amend the comprehensive I/DD waiver the State already has and add some components to serve individuals with high needs. This will provide an opportunity to serve people who have been languishing in API and will allow individuals the support needed to return to Alaska from out-of-state placements in intermediate care facilities.

The second recommendation is to develop a 1915(c) supports waiver to replace general fund dollars currently serving children and adults with I/DD on the waiting list for comprehensive waiver services. The supports waiver would have an individual expenditure cap and a flexible array of services that does not include 24/7 residential supports.

Duane Mayes stated that they just received a work plan from the contractor that has been developed based on the two above-mentioned recommendations. An internal team has been convened within SDS specific to this work plan, and they will need to get approval from CMS as well as develop policies and regulations.

### **TBI TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT**

Duane Mayes stated that they will be working very closely with the Alaska Brain Injury Network

moving forward on TBI targeted case management.

### **SMI 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER**

Duane Mayes stated that the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) has convened a Benefits and Design Committee to design the 1115 demonstration waiver, and they have developed a concept paper and shared it during a recent partners meeting. The decision has been made that DBH will not incorporate a home and community-based service component within the 1115 demonstration waiver. Duane stated that they will now need to regroup and give more thought to the SMI population that is currently being served by the General Relief Program.

Amanda Lofgren added that the excluded populations from the 1115 waiver include individuals over the age of 65, individuals receiving home and community-based services, and those individuals in a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility. She also noted that there is a group of Alaskans going to Virginia and Pennsylvania soon to meet with various peer groups, providers, families, and policy makers to learn about those states' 1115 demonstration waiver.

Duane Mayes stated that they met with DBH to discuss the challenging individuals both at API and out of state. SDS has also shared a copy of the report that Robin Cooper provided. The plan for the future is to get together with DBH to discuss the population on the General Relief Program.

### **ARD UPDATE**

Duane Mayes shared that they heard in the community forums loud and clear that something needs to be developed for the ARD population. He also stated that in a national conference he attended, it was noted that supports for the ARD population is an issue nationwide.

Steve Lutzky then presented to the council the concept for a 1915(i) targeting individuals with ARD with behavioral issues that require substantial interventions as follows:

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Medicaid eligible;
- Diagnosis of Alzheimer's or related dementia; and
- Having behavioral issues that require substantial interventions.

#### **Potential Services**

- Assisted living.
- Community services that may include devices to prevent wandering and dementia mapping to reduce environmental hazards, enhanced caregiver services, homemaker and chore, and home-delivered meals.
  - Community benefit will be subject to a cap to ensure cost neutrality for the State.
  - Structure could include the option to self-direct entire budget,

#### **Process for Establishing Eligibility Criteria and Projections of Potential Costs/Savings**

- Develop a tool that can be used as a supplement to the CAT and Pioneer Homes

assessment to capture information on behavior issues and interventions based on work HCBS Strategies has done with Colorado and Oregon.

- Obtain data by giving it to current Pioneer Home residents, create a supplement to the CAT on initial assessments for a period, and create a supplement to the GR DLA-20 assessments if feasible.

### **Establishing Community Services and Benefit Level**

- Finalization of list of potential services to be included.
- Judgments by SDS staff, Pioneer Home administrators, and selected others of the value each service adds to the target population.
- Crosswalk that summarizes cost and projected value of each service and recommend service package and cap.
- Facilitated meeting to finalize the recommendation.

Pat Branson shared her concerns with gaining an accurate picture of the population outside of the Pioneer Homes and assisted living facilities, and she wondered what the timeline would look like for getting those people into service. Steve Lutzky stated that they will be looking at the data generated by the CAT as well as possible supplements to the assessments, and the timeline will look the same for this population as those living in Pioneer Home and assisted living facilities.

Ken Helander asked if the interRAI will replace the CAT; and if so, does it assess caregivers. Steve Lutzky stated that the interRAI has a minimum data set, but it does contain a few caregiver questions. Anything further would need to be expanded in an additional tool or enhancement to the interRAI. Ken Helander further shared his concerns about shoring up families and family caregivers as a critical component of ADRD services because families account for the vast majority of the supports.

Denise Daniello added that in a partnership with the Trust and the national Alzheimer's Association, funding was received to implement the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey caregiver module, which will start January 1<sup>st</sup> and go through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Public Health will administer that module. The survey will identify what types of care family caregivers are providing, what kind of supports they have, what their challenges are, and what things they need. The purpose of the survey is to inform planning and policymaking decisions regarding family caregiver needs.

Denise Daniello also shared her concerns about people aged 65 and older not being included in the 1115 demonstration waiver, because senior citizens also have mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Duane Mayes stated they can use this concept paper as a starting point and then continue to add to it to enhance it. Ken Helander again shared his frustration that over the past 30 years, mental health services for seniors has gone backwards, and no progress has been made on level of care definitions for seniors with ADRD. This has been the case in times when the State had plenty of money, and yet this population has been forgotten.

Sandra Heffern suggested an 1115 demonstration waiver for long-term services and supports to

address what the system is currently lacking. She felt that it is important to take a broader perspective on dealing with these systems issues, and she noted the potential benefit of using the 1115 to get systems in place in the event the new administration adopts Medicaid block grants.

### **COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE 1915(k)**

Duane Mayes reminded the council that they made the decision to move forward on the implementation of the 1915(k) state plan option. A concept paper was developed a couple of weeks ago, and it also includes the 1915(c) supports waiver. They have had technical assistance calls with CMS that have been very positive. They have developed a tri-state gathering of leadership from Washington, Oregon, and Alaska to work together on a variety of federal issues that affect states, such as settings compliance. Duane noted that Ulf Petersen has developed a Gantt chart that reflects the work plan and progress on the plan.

### **IAPDU**

Duane Mayes stated that they have a contract with Medidata, and they are going through the process of implementing a new data system, the automated service plan. The target date to go live with the new system is June 30, 2017. They will have to enhance the system because of the 1915(k) and the new assessment tool. They have funding that has come from the Trust that will be part of that, but they completed an Advanced Planning Document that goes to CMS and is very detailed to get approval for a 90 percent federal match to the enhancements. They are very close to getting final approval for the 90 percent match from CMS, and those dollars will be what they use for the new assessment tool, the 1915(k), and the supports waiver.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Inclusive Community Choices Council is set for Friday, February 24, 2017 from 11:00 to 1:00.

### **ADJOURN**

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.