

**Wisconsin Council on Long Term Care
Meeting of July 7, 2009**

Approved Minutes

Members present: Beth Anderson, Pat Anderson, Judy Braun, Lynn Breedlove, Heather Bruemmer, Devon Christianson, Paul Cook, Dana Cyra, Carol Eschner, Tom Frazier, Jennifer Ondrejka, Michelle Pike, Todd Romenesko, Chris Sarbacker, John Sauer, Stephanie Stein

Members absent: Bob Kellerman

Others present: Lorraine Barniskis, Sabrina Fox, Janice Smith, Judith Frye, Donna McDowell, Sue Schroeder, Marcie Brost, Ruth Christensen, Lea Kitz, Ashley Hesse, Michael Blumenfeld, Frances Meyers, Kathi Papa, C. Thomas Cook

Chair Heather Bruemmer called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Updates from DHS

Judith Frye noted that Fredi Bove and several other DHS staff were meeting in Chicago regarding several waiver renewals in progress. She provided information about self-directed supports within Family Care, and about nursing home diversion slots (see handouts). An RFP is out for an MCO to serve six counties in the Fox valley.

She noted the following changes made by the Legislature and the Governor to the biennial budget:

- About \$3 million in GPR and federal match was added to allow the transition in Milwaukee County to include enrollment of people from the waiting list from the beginning of service for people under age 60.
- The Governor vetoed a mandate added by the Legislature that Family Care be started in Langlade County on a date certain, but urged DHS to start as soon as possible in 2010.
- DHS received additional staff (directly employed and contract) over the course of the biennium; those reporting to the Office of Family Care Expansion will be focused on filling out teams for MCO oversight
- Tom Frazier said that funding for the Guardianship Support Program was restored.

DHS hopes to contract with a third party administrator for handling claims for Family Care and the children's waivers. DHS intends to issue an RFI in August to information technology vendors. The request will be for them to look at all IT functions for DHS, MCOs, ADRCs and intercommunications and to give suggestions for how they could support these various needs. DHS hopes to be acquiring service agreements for specific services by next year. Paul Cook noted that MCOs are not interested in any IT changes for at least two years.

To implement the requirement for eight furlough days a year for state employees, the Department of Administration has established four days when state offices will be closed (two federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and the Friday before Memorial Day); individual departments will establish policies for the other four days each year.

Finally, Judith announced that she will be retiring on August 14th, and said that she appreciates the support of the Council and many others in the long-term care arena over the years.

Family Care Strategic Plan

Judith said that the draft strategic plan for Family Care highlights the need for getting care under management during this phase of rapid transition and expansion. Key goals are:

- Beefing up training programs for care managers (state teams are in the field now)
- Developing uniform rate-setting methodologies for non-Medicaid-card services
- Working with MCOs to expand the content of their business planning to achieve cost-effectiveness within three years.

Lynn Breedlove suggested that DHS consider an additional strategic initiative related to moving toward the least restrictive/most integrated setting, including explicit reference to the Managed Care and Employment Task Force. He also made two suggestions for edits to the appendices on SDS and appeals. Judith invited other feedback, which should be sent to herself or Kathleen Luedtke in July. Paul Cook noted that MCOs are struggling with defining roles and relationships, asking questions about the extent to which MCOs are independent businesses versus franchisees. John Sauer suggested addition of strategic initiatives related to workforce issues, and urged that the impact of low provider rates on the workforce be considered. He urged DHS to be proactive in developing and nurturing the workforce that is crucial to the success of Family Care. Lynn Breedlove agreed, as did Carol Eschner, who suggested that one place this could be addressed would be in the development of uniform rate-setting.

Changes in CIP and COP Waivers

Marcie Brost reported that the CIP I and Brain Injury waivers had been approved by CMS after 19 months of negotiations. Several key changes were included, which will affect all waiver programs:

- A statewide waiting list policy is being established; a numbered memo will be going out soon. Uniform criteria will apply across all waivers, with some specifics varying among the programs.
- All service providers must have provider agreements with DHS and DHS will track all providers.
- A registry will be established that will include any and all willing (not necessarily qualified) providers. The registry will be available to all waiver participants and counties. Follow-up discussion on implementation of this registry will be included in a future Council agenda.

Updated policy on avoiding ADRC-MCO conflict of interest

Janice Smith highlighted changes to the draft made in response to previous comments made by the Council and other reviewers. Lynn Breedlove made several suggestions for strengthening the new draft. Todd Romenesko suggested that ethics and boundaries training specific to ADRC staff be made available.

Reconfiguring ADRC responsibilities to fit available resources

Donna McDowell and Janice Smith provided background and walked through the handout on this topic previously provided. Council members had several specific reactions:

- There should be at least some statewide marketing of ADRCs and the benefits of talking with them before making major LTC decisions. Information and assistance should be emphasized even during hard budget times.
- New ADRCs need to capture the maximum federal funding possible and to hang onto all possible/current county support (including in-kind).
- Reporting requirements should be streamlined to create efficiencies.

On a motion by Lynn Breedlove, seconded by Chris Sarbacker, the Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Council on Long Term Care urges Secretary Timberlake to work toward obtaining, as soon as possible, an eighteen percent increase in funding for Aging and Disability Centers and to get funding for prevention programs restored. If possible, we recommend that this effort should be made as part of any interim budget adjustment legislation; if not, it should be part of the next biennial budget process.

The recommendation will be conveyed to the Secretary by Chair Heather Bruemmer.

Comments from the public

C. Thomas Cook, Executive Director of Rehabilitation for Wisconsin, expressed concern that rate-setting methodologies were being developed without much stakeholder input. He notes that consultants are available; other systems have been developed and implemented. Judith Frye responded that the workgroup that is meeting is not developing rates; rather, they are developing a set of principles and methodologies that MCOs could use with their providers. The group expects to take proposals to providers and others in August for comment.

Fiscal issues in Family Care

Judith said that DHS anticipates that over time, MCOs will experience average annual gains of about three percent; she emphasized that the average will be over time, and will encompass ups and downs. In 2008, DHS assumed that MCOs would use accumulated surpluses from previous years to invest in expansion activities. In 2009, risk-sharing policies were re-instituted. The goal for 2009 is that all organizations will break even; for organizations providing Partnership, that goal is across all programs offered. She noted that Medicare reimbursement is changing at the same time, with resultant Medicare losses for most MCOs offering Partnership. Contracts may be re-negotiated. For 2010, DHS plans to rely less on risk sharing, and to use more flexibility with up-front capitation rate-setting.

Updates on DHS-Tribal projects

Donna McDowell and Gail Schwersenska reported that they have been meeting with tribes and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for some time, especially with tribal aging directors. (See handout for details of draft options for ADRC services to tribal members.) Gail highlighted that tribal representatives have expressed their desire for representation on MCO and ADRC governing boards. They also want the freedom to go to either the tribal or the county economic support unit. It was noted that tribal aging units currently include elderly benefit specialists, but not disability benefit specialists.

Council business

Approval of 5/5/08 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved, on a motion by Lynn Breedlove, seconded by Jennifer Ondrejka.

Report from the Family Care Quality Committee. Carol Eschner reported that the committee is working on sorting key expectations of MCOs between those of mature MCOs and those that are just starting up or are expanding very rapidly. The committee hopes to bring recommendations to the Council soon. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 7; Paul Cook will chair in Carol's absence.

Announcements

- On the occasion of the first anniversary of IRIS, John O'Keefe provided copies of a story of one person's life that had been greatly improved by the availability of this self-directed option.
- Heather Bruemmer offered the Council's thanks and congratulations to Judith Frye on the occasion of her retirement.

Future agenda items. The following were suggested as items at future Council meetings:

- Information on the development of the Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority established in the budget
- Workforce training models currently in use
- Follow-up on implementation plans for the new requirement for a provider registry for waiver programs
- Discussion of alternate strategies for helping people to conserve their own resources, despite the insufficiency of ADRC funding (in early 2010)
- Updates on organizational changes in DHS (when appropriate)

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.