

Advisory Council on Aging

The Advisory Council on Aging meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and in person on January 10, 2023.

Members Present – Brett Hoffman, Cheryl Anagnopoulos, Erik Gaikowski, Gavin Van De Walle, Jim Severson, and Gale Walker

Members Absent: Tammy Hatting, Jean Person and Gerald Beninga

Public Participant- Thomas Elness, SD Alzheimer’s Association and Mackenzie Huber, Reporter

Heather Krzmarzick, LTSS Director led the meeting with introductions.

Chairman Cheryl Anagnopoulos called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM CST.

Approval of Agenda (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)- The agenda was reviewed. Erik made a motion to approve the agenda, Jim second. Motion passed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)- Meeting Minutes from the July meeting were attached to the invite for members to review. Motion for approval by Jim, Brett second. Motion passed.

Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Updates

HCBS Final Rule

Misty Black Bear, Assistant Director, discussed HCBS Settings Review. A summary and recap of the rule was given. The final compliance deadline for states is March 17, 2023. Assisted Livings, Community Living Homes and Adult Day Centers are primarily affected because they are provider owned, so have additional requirements. LTSS is working with remaining settings to ensure compliance by the March date. LTSS will continue to monitor for compliance, as a part of the requirements of the Rule, ongoing.

HOPE Waiver Amendment

Heather informed the council that the LTSS Team is considering changes that would require a HOPE Waiver Amendment in order to establish more efficient process. Additional information will be provided once it is finalized.

In Home Services Rate Methodology – RN/LPN

Heather reviewed the Rate Methodology for in home services. In looking at rate methodologies key elements must be considered. A methodology is the overall process for establishing rates. Rate methodologies must use sound parameters to ensure rates are reflective of services provided. The focus of methodologies is on **how** services are reimbursed. Rebasings look at other important elements. It compares the rate methodology against that cost of services and focuses on reimbursement rates. When a rebase occurs, the budget is aligned with the costs necessary to provide the given service. The final report for the in home rate methodology is located on the DHS website at the following link: <https://dhs.sd.gov/docs/SD%20In%20Home%20Services%20Rate%20Study%20Report-%20FINAL.pdf>

As a part of the in-home service rate methodology review, DSS and DHS had a vendor, Guidehouse, conduct a review of the methodology – for LTSS this included adult companion, respite care, chore services, homemaker, personal care and nursing services. DSS was reviewing the nursing services for

their program. The state wanted to be consistent in our rate methodology, especially since some providers are reimbursed by both DHS and DSS. DSS reimbursed RN and LPN separately, while DHS combined the rate. The decision was made after review of data to split out RN and LPN since this follows how other services are paid with DSS as well as for DHS (i.e. accounted for in NH rates with cost reports). So, RN rates will see an increase and LPN rates will see a decrease to account for this. Transportation is included indirectly in the methodology and work group discussed tracking in a deeper way to ensure we have data we can analyze in future methodology reviews.

Upcoming Rate Methodology Reviews

DHS is anticipating releasing a RFP February or March of 2023 for structured family caregiving and adult day and potentially for meals pending review of grant and reimbursement requirements. Provider involvement and stakeholders are invited to provide input. The contracted vendor will research and come up with recommendations. Methodology reviews are completed in accordance with SB147 which requires a rate methodology review at least every 5 years.

Governor's Proposed Budget

The proposed budget accounts for a 5% increase and an additional targeted increase for providers to bring to at least 90% of methodology or greater depending on where the rates were previously – Nursing homes is 21%. With legislative session starting today, legislators will be reviewing this proposed budget.

Gale asked about how frequent the re-base of in-home service and long-term care (nursing homes).

Heather responded that for in home, cost reports are utilized and reviewed annually along with the governor's proposed budget and approved budget, including language for targeted providers, and bringing providers to methodologies.

Gale also asked about how many of the recommendations from the rate methodology were accepted.

Brett Hoffman reported that he can't recall the exact amount, but most (but not all) of the recommendations were accepted. For example, removing one of the previous caps was a large contributor of the significant increase. It also moved it to a Global Insight Nursing Facility Market Basket calculation to account for inflation ongoing – compares nursing home industry rather than general industry.

Heather also explained that during the rate methodology work-groups the vendors evaluated and attempted to account for trends during the last two years.

Advisory Council on Aging Membership

In an effort to be thoughtful of people's time and commitment, Heather suggested implementing 3 or 4 year terms for Council members. The Executive Order for the Council notes that the majority should be consumers, so it is important to try to nominate consumers to fill vacant seats. Consumers are an important perspective for current and future services and work in LTSS. Heather discussed three-year terms or four-year terms and asked for the council's feedback. Members of the council agreed three years would be ideal. Heather will send out the nomination form with the draft minutes.

Council Input, Ideas or Questions

DHS website

DHS is in the process of updating the website to better serve our target population. The new website will use plain language, so it is more understandable to the public. There will be reduced acronyms with more applicable information. There is also a provider portal to login to get information that applies specifically to them. DHS will also be able to absorb the Lifespan respite website into the DHS website to make this site more user friendly and more in alignment with the grant's purpose.

Medicaid Expansion

At the November election, Medicaid expansion passed, which expands the eligibility for low-income adults. Discussion on what this could mean for our services and what, if any, impact there could be for LTSS. Heather asked the group for feedback on any things we should be thinking about related to how this might affect long term services and supports. Erik volunteered to look at other states that have recently expanded to find out if there are lessons learned for expansion.

Gale questioned if there has been any public awareness for those that might be eligible. Heather advised that DSS will lead that since it is a DSS program.

Gavin asked regarding Medicaid expansion if SD was only state without an online Medicaid application. Heather will check with DSS.

Dakota at Home & LTSS Programs – awareness

Heather provided information regarding current vendors. Currently, LTSS has 3 vendors for different programs and services within LTSS. LTSS is exploring an RFP that would rebrand Dakota at Home since the current brand reaches older adults. LTSS and DHS want to expand it to adults with disabilities and developmental disabilities since Dakota at Home is the intake number for Division of Developmental disabilities within Department of Human Services (DHS). LTSS hopes to combine all of our LTSS programs under one vendor to gain efficiencies of working with one vendor but also so many of our programs are intertwined that we gain efficiencies by finding ways to market them through one vendor who knows all of our services and our target audience. Heather showed a current advertising clip for Dakota at Home and asked the group if there were thoughts on branding.

Gavin asked if there was any input LTSS has received related to people not knowing about Dakota at Home. Heather commented that a market analysis would be helpful initially and ongoing.

Erik asked if there was data that reflects if the ads are reaching the audience. Also asked if there is any data showing which medias are working best.

Brett stated that he has always like the ads. He things they are distinct and eye catching. Cheryl also reports that the ads are distinct and unique. Maybe consider targeting to more women.

Public Comment

Thomas thanked Heather for committing to rate review for structured family caregiving and adult day services as caregivers are common users of these services.

Related to Dakota at Home, Thomas is aware of Wisconsin's public awareness campaign and shared the link to that.

Thomas asked for clarification regarding HCBS Settings Rule and the inability for nursing homes to provide HCBS services. Misty confirmed that this was true. The evidence packages that LTSS put together were to verify that assisted livings that are co-located with nursing homes function as distinct and separate and the experience of the residents is also different.

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was discussed and council agreed to eliminate the July meeting.

Adjourn

Brett made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Erik. All in favor to adjourn. 11:02 AM adjourned.