

### **Advisory Council on Aging**

The Advisory Council on Aging meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and in person on Tuesday April 8, 2025.

**Members Present:** James Severson, Erik Gaikowski, Cody Seehafer, Jenna Douglas and Michele Juffer.

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Anagnopoulos, Tammy Hatting, Gale Walker, Brett Hoffman

**Public Participants:** None

### **Welcome (Heather Krzmarzick)**

Heather welcomed the group and turned over to Acting Chair Severson. Acting Chair Severson called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM CST.

### **Approval of Agenda (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)**

Cody made a motion to approve the agenda, Michele seconded. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)**

Meeting Minutes from the October 2024 meeting were attached to the invite for members to review. Motion for approval by Michele, seconded by Erik. Motion passed.

### **Long Term Services and Supports Updates:**

Heather discussed updates for the Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) as follows:

### **State Plan on Aging**

The State Plan on Aging is the strategic plan for our OAA programs (Adult Nutrition, Adult Day Services, Adult Protective Services, Legal Assistance, Transportation, and the Ombudsman programs) for the next four years. Submission to the Administration on Community Living (ACL) is required by June 1, 2025, for the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funding LTSS receives. LTSS conducted a needs assessment, in which the Advisory Council participated in a session offering input, in preparation for developing the State Plan on Aging. February 28- March 31, 2025, the State Plan on Aging was open for public comment and is now in the final stages of review based on the public comments.

Erik G. indicated that AARP submitted comments and inquired as to whether other comments were received. Heather responded that there were several entities that submitted comments, which were utilized to inform updates to the State Plan on Aging.

### **CMS HCBS Settings Onsite review and follow-up**

Back in May 2024, CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) conducted an onsite visit to review the implementation of the HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) Settings Final

Rule. This primarily applies to Assisted Livings, Community Living Homes, and Adult Day settings within LTSS.

SD submitted a corrective action plan and received approval from CMS. For each of the above, our response includes providing education to providers and LTSS team, resolving individual settings findings, seeking evidence of compliance (policies, etc.) from all settings, reviewing of evidence, and ongoing monitoring. LTSS has been conducting training with providers and LTSS team, as well as developing a self-assessment that providers were asked to complete. LTSS has been visiting providers to collect evidence and assess for compliance.

### **KIND (Keeping Independence Nurturing Dignity) Program Administrative Rules**

LTSS is in the process of drafting administrative rules for our KIND program, which is a general-funded program for in-home services (nursing, homemaker, personal care, adult day, emergency response system, medical equipment/supplies). With this process comes a review of the program and ensuring the services are meeting the intended goal to prevent nursing home placement. We are hopeful to have an administrative rules package later this year.

Cody inquired as to when the target date for the KIND program ARSD would be. Heather responded that the KIND program exists today, and the services provided are similar to those available through the HOPE waiver, but it is a different funding source. The rules are being updated with a target date of summer or fall.

### **Marketing and Awareness Campaign**

Our first year of the campaign is complete. A new brand look and logos were developed for Dakota at Home and LTSS. As part of the campaign, we created new campaign assets, printed materials, and presentation templates, conducted participant and stakeholder perception research studies, and launched a paid media campaign. Heather shared some of the statistics from the campaign that showcase LTSS services, specifically in-home, adult protective services, and respite and caregiving services.

We are in the midst of our second year of the campaign. We are developing Provider kits that will be mailed containing brochures, posters, and a flow chart to help providers and their clients/patients/residents navigate Dakota at Home and LTSS services. Next year, we will work on sending email blasts with education on different programs. This year, we also have paid media efforts in print, radio, YouTube, and TV. Another focus for advertising is churches and pharmacies in addition to postcards directly to people's homes to reach our target population. Some of these suggestions came directly from our listening sessions and feedback on the State Plan on Aging.

Heather shared one of the newer campaign videos and asked the group for feedback. Cody indicated he thought it was good and Michelle said it would be helpful to have the phone number on longer, but otherwise helps show that people can stay at home and get services.

## **Dakota at Home Online Resource Directory**

Heather showed the new online resource directory (<https://dakotaathome.sd.gov/>) to easily locate resources based on an individual's needs, location, etc. LTSS contracted with Helpline 211 for this work. Great features include a more user-friendly system, the ability to print, email, text search options, categories to help individuals searching as well as a suggested search function, etc. There is an inclusion policy to help ensure that LTSS is providing credible options. Helpline is responsible for ensuring the data is up to date by making at least annual contact with listed resources.

Jenna asked if the Resource Directory included specific waivers that one might be eligible for. In searching the database, specific waiver information came up, but not others. Cody asked if waivers were county, region, or state-specific. Heather indicated that waivers are specific to the state. Jim talked about how it can be confusing to the public because services can be provided by many different programs and funding sources. Heather agreed, this can be a point of confusion. We try to keep public information specific to services versus program for this reason but will continue to consider how to best balance this.

## **2025 Legislative Session Updates**

LTSS providers will see a 1.25% increase in rates effective July 1, 2025.

HB 1098 (2025) - Representative Mike Weisgram sponsored [House Bill 1098](#) to reimburse primary caregivers caring for loved ones with dementia, or symptoms in alignment with dementia, for the cost of respite care services by appropriating a one-time amount from the general fund of \$500,000. Representative Weisgram worked with DHS to understand current programs and explore additional opportunities. 86% of caregivers utilizing the respite program are providing care to those impacted by dementia. DHS has a “soft cap” of \$5,000 per year for unpaid family caregivers and some have viewed that as a barrier to services. However, no caregiver has been denied funds above the \$5,000 “soft cap”. The highest limit that was authorized was \$14,431, and overall spending for caregivers has continued to grow with a 24% increase in expenditures and a 30% increase in caregivers served from FY23 to FY 24. In order to address this negative perception of the soft cap, DHS agreed to increase the “soft cap” to \$10,000 as well as work to collect some data for the caregiver program. As a result of these discussions, Representative Weisgram tabled the bill.

## **Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Feasibility Study**

During the 2024 legislative session, LTSS signed a letter of intent to conduct a feasibility study to determine if PACE would be feasible in SD. Heather reviewed what a PACE program is and the eligibility.

- An innovative health care delivery model with the goal of keeping seniors

healthy and living in their own homes or communities as long as possible.

- PACE provides comprehensive medical and social services to qualifying seniors.
- Services include: all Medicaid and Medicare covered services, and any other services determined necessary by an interdisciplinary team of professionals within the PACE organization.
- Care is provided primarily in an adult day health center setting and supplemented by in-home and referral services. However, services are available 24/7, every day of the year, based on a participant's needs.

Eligibility for PACE:

- 55 or over and meet the nursing facility level of care (typically participant has multiple complex medical conditions, cognitive and/or functional impairments, and significant health and long term care needs)
- Participant must live in a PACE service area
- Participant must be able to live safely in the community with PACE services at time of enrollment

Work has progressed with an initial market analysis that Sioux Falls and Rapid City are the only potential feasible options for PACE due to the volume of potential PACE clients. The vendor DHS hired is now working on the actuarial analysis and reviewing stakeholder feedback in order to have a final report ready no later than July 1, 2025, which will be submitted to JCA.

### **Technology Equipment Grants**

SB 80 (2024) - This bill appropriated \$2M to DHS for Technology equipment grants for state licensed Medicaid providers primarily serving older adults. LTSS awarded all of the funds and providers have been submitting their reimbursement requests.

### **Adult Day Grants**

In the 2023 legislative session, there was a \$2M appropriation to DHS for enhancing adult day. Expanded or additional locations include: Belle Fourche Adult Day, Adult Day Center of the Black Hills, The Homestead (Lake Norden), Good Samaritan Society – Howard, and Active Generations in Sioux Falls. Based on the proposals, this would increase adult day by at least an additional 100 participants.

The Homestead in Lake Norden is near completion of their new building. Good Samaritan Society Howard is almost complete with training and remodeling. Adult Day Center of the Black Hills remodeled a previous day care building on the North end of Rapid City. Now they are starting renovations on the existing building to help expand capacity. Belle Fourche Adult Day

broke ground in March. Active Generations is doing some additional fundraising before they are ready to move forward. This is great progress in SD for expanding adult day services!

### **Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative grant (ADPI)**

LTSS applied for the Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative grant (ADPI) earlier this year as we discussed in April.

In September 2024, DHS was awarded the grant. LTSS is meeting with ACL (Administration on Community Living) as it is a cooperative grant, so the planning phase is at least the first six months, up to one year, before starting in Aberdeen as the first pilot community. Next, after applying lessons learned and approval from ACL, we would pilot in Belle Fourche. Avenues to build this collaboration include:

- Dementia Dialogues – nationally recognized, evidence-based training
- Memory Cafes – a safe and welcoming place for those living with dementia and their caregivers to socialize or be together to enjoy activities
- Trualta (online caregiver education and wellness platform, including support groups)
- Caregiver classes
- Education and collaboration within the pilot community
- Build further awareness of Dakota at Home as another resource
- Pilot a family caregiver assessment
- Finding ways to align and partner with the BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia) Infrastructure Grant

Erik asked where the ideas for this work came from and if it was modeled from another state etc. Heather indicated it was part of the grant and combining all of our efforts in the pilot communities. Erik asked if AARP could get a copy of the family assessment. Heather responded that we don't have the assessment available yet, but Erik would like to get a copy of the assessment for awareness once it has been developed.

### **Council Input, Ideas or Questions**

Cody asked about adding wheelchair vendors or other assistive device providers to the resources database. Heather pulled up the database and confirmed that there are resources available on the website.

Erik asked for an update on the respite care coalition. Heather stated that our plan is to restart that. She will find out who the federal contacts are and provide an update.

Cody asked if respite care would include companion care services. We have adult companion services through the HOPE waiver, but this service is more for the caregiver to get a break to run errands etc. while someone provides care to the care receiver.

### **Advisory Council on Aging Membership**

To fill an opening vacated by Justin Jones, we have been looking for representation from a caregiver. With a few details yet to finalize, Judy Gano will be appointed and join us for our next meeting in October.

Two remaining openings exist and since our Executive Order states that the majority of the membership will be consumers or potential consumers of services, Heather was planning on focusing on recruiting another caregiver and a Tribal elder. If you have any recommendations, please send them to Heather.

### **Public Comment**

No public attendees.

### **Next Meeting**

October 21, 2025, from 1-3pm. Please let us know if there are any agenda items to add for the next meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Michelle. Second by Erik. All in favor to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM