

Advisory Council on Aging

The Advisory Council on Aging meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and in person on Tuesday October 17, 2023.

Members Present – Cheryl Anagnopoulos, Erik Gaikowski, Jim Severson, Gerald Beninga, Tammy Hatting, Gale Walker, Cody Seehafer

Members Absent: Brett Hoffman, Michelle Juffer, Justin Jones , Gavin Van De Walle (resigned effective 10/15/2023)

Public Participant: Thomas Elness, Director of Public Policy for SD Alzheimer’s Association

Chairman Cheryl Anagnopoulos called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM CST.

Heather Krzmarzick, LTSS Director led the meeting with introductions, including newly appointed member, Cody Seehafer. Cody introduced himself to the group. He is a consumer representative. Michelle Juffer and Justin Jones, also newly appointed, were unable to participate today due to other commitments. Gavin VanDeWalle resigned effective immediately. This will be Gerald’s Beninga’s last meeting.

Heather discussed the stipend for those that are not otherwise being paid to attend the meeting and asked that they let us know if they would like to pursue payment of a stipend.

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

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)- Meeting Minutes from the April meeting were attached to the invite for members to review. Motion for approval by Tammy, 2nd by Gale. Motion passed.

Long Term Services and Supports Updates

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

Long Term Services and Supports Updates

Division of Long Term Services and Supports Mission Statement

With DHS’ work on the website using plain language, DHS is also moving toward more plain language mission statements. Last time this group met, the mission statement was reviewed for discussion and thoughts. The group liked the mission statement. The final mission statement is *“The Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) enhances and promotes the quality of life for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers, at home and in the community.”*

New DHS Website – dhs.sd.gov

As previously shared, DHS is currently developing a new website that will be written in plain language and more user-friendly. Heather shared the website and navigated it briefly. A Provider Portal will allow providers to easily access information and remove it from the public-facing website as it adds additional content for public users, which is confusing to the public.

HCBS Rate Methodology

Currently, there is a rate methodology review for Structured Family Caregiving, Adult Day Services (ADS), Assisted Living, Community Living Homes, and meals. The final meeting is slated for November 8th, 2023 where the potential fiscal impact will be discussed.

Some of the discussion surrounding the rate methodologies includes adjusting methodology for determining tiers, and updating costs. Meals has two components with HOPE waiver funding and Title III funding (which is limited to funding from the federal government), so Title III is not based on costs. LTSS is working with a vendor on ways to maximize funding opportunities to support our programs.

LTSS & Dakota at Home Awareness & Marketing

A Request For Proposal (RFP) for LTSS and Dakota at Home public awareness and marketing was released on January 26, 2023. Lawrence & Schiller was selected as the new vendor. Currently, LTSS is working on research and discovery for LTSS and Dakota at Home. The primary goal of the campaign is making sure that the target audience (including Caregivers, Medicare Beneficiaries, Providers) for specific LTSS services is being reached. Roughly 50% of referrals to Dakota at Home are from providers like hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, etc. so ensuring they are aware of the LTSS programs that may help the target audience is important.

Administrative Rules

- Nursing Facility Rate Setting – updated with new rate methodology in addition to Medicaid State Plan summer 2023
- Nursing Facility Case Mix Validation – updated summer 2023 to allow for virtual reviews of documentation related to reimbursement for nursing homes
- Level of Care – planned for November Interim Rules Committee but due to LRC questions there was a delay to summer 2024 – these rules are related to the HOPE waiver amendment with the changes of adjusting the medical review team to the nurse consultants and changing the mental health eligibility from weekly counseling to participating in the CARE or IMPACT program (public comment period was conducted already with waiver amendment but will happen again next year for admin rules). CMHC provided comment of support.
 - HCBS Waiver – or HOPE Waiver – planned for November Interim Rules Committee but had to be delayed to summer 2024. Relates to waiver amendment as well.

- KIND (in Home services) – state funded program – working with vendor to further develop and define this program better and then will update rules
- Personal Care Services (DSS state plan) – align with our other rules for some consistency where appropriate
- Cleaning up change from DSS to DHS and ASA to LTSS, in addition to other programmatic changes to ensure we are meeting the needs of our target population.

Behavior Program

Heather explained the current program. The program allows providers to care for individuals who exhibit behaviors for a variety of reasons and allows providers to be reimbursed for 100% of allowable costs within this program. The goal is for this program to expand to grow in order to provide services to more people. Heather asked if there was any feedback on how to make the program different or better, but there was not any feedback from the group.

Alzheimer’s Disease Program Initiative grant

DHS was not awarded this round, but the team has been working to learn about what applications are being awarded to tailor our next application for stronger consideration in the future.

The objectives of the grant are:

- the creation, expansion and sustainability of a dementia-capable state HCBS system that includes Single Entry Point/No Wrong Door (SEP/NWD) access for people with dementia and their family caregivers (via Dakota at Home).
- ensure access to a comprehensive, sustainable set of quality state HCBS that are dementia-capable and provide innovative services to the population with dementia and their caregivers.

BOLD Grant

DHS provided a letter of support for the Department of Health BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia) Infrastructure grant, which would align nicely with LTSS’ work. The grant was received so we are working together on next steps as this will be a collaborative effort.

Adult Day Grants

There was a \$2M appropriation during the 2023 legislative session for grants to increase and enhance adult day services in SD. Grant applications were accepted through June 9th, 2023 for up to \$500,000 per location. Five applications were approved and currently working through contracts. Based on the proposals, this would increase adult day by 63-102 participants.

Long Term Care Study

The Long Term Care Study has been underway throughout the summer to ensure sustainability for long term services and supports. The last meeting will be this Wednesday, where the recommendations will be reviewed and finalized. Heather reviewed the preliminary recommendations by legislative committee, which are also available at:

<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/253863.pdf>

Tammy Hatting elaborated further on PACE programs and reported that they learned a feasibility study can be done for free to determine if this program is a good fit for SD.

Cody Seehafer stated that if this becomes available it would be great to ensure that individuals with disabilities be made aware rather than just those that are aged. He shared that he attends the rec-center regular and believes that it is an important part of how he remains independent. Heather agreed that it is important that public awareness for any program that becomes available is targeted to appropriate audience.

Heather also highlighted the recommendation for an increase to the personal needs allowance (the amount participants are allowed to keep for personal spending), which is currently \$60 for those residing in AL and CLH.

Heather discussed that recommendation for nail and bathing care to be available at clinics. Cody commented that he receives massage, which is also an important component of his self care routine and suggested these clinics could be to incorporate as available services.

Heather also briefly touched on the recommendation to define palliative care in SD and including which disciplines would be part of the palliative care team.

Tammy gave a shout out to the DHS team for being present at the meetings and expressed appreciation to the state for their participation and expertise during the process.

Gale asked about memory care units in nursing facilities and if they still had them. Heather stated there are around 20 throughout the state, which is likely the result of more assisted livings and more memory care options.

Cody asked if another person could provide personal care if a family member wasn't comfortable providing it (a bath, for example). Misty indicated yes, it is possible, but how it would be authorized is dependent upon the program and the service authorized.

Council Input, Ideas or Questions

Tammy discussed concerns with nursing home care unfunded mandates from CMS that may be coming down the road. If they go through, the State will need to be dependent on other

programs, including in home services, as many nursing homes will not be able to meet the proposed requirements.

Cheryl asked for the legislative recommendation document to be shared, as there are other efforts she is involved with education that seem similar and it might be beneficial to collaborate and pull together similar efforts.

Council Membership

Michelle Juffer, Justin Jones, and Cody Seehafer have been appointed by the Governor to service on the Advisory Council. Gavin VanDeWalle contacted Heather requesting to end her appointment to the Council effective immediately due to other commitments. Gerald Beninga, who has served for fifteen years on the Advisory Board on Aging requested previously to not extend his term. This will be Gerald's last meeting. Heather thanked him for his service.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is April 9th at 1 PM.

Adjourn

Jim made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Cody. All in favor to adjourn. 2:28 PM meeting adjourned.