

Family Support Council Meeting
August 5, 2022
Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Amber Finnesand, Christine Kenser, Krista Bau, Bridget Leiseth, Pat Norin, Krista Johnson, Jennifer Walker, Joanne Hairy Shirt, Janet Whiting

Members absent: Dianne Baumiller, Michelle Powers, Brittany Norin, Pat Norin, Peggy Waltner

DHS Staff: Jaze Sollars, Kade Anderson, Joey Younie

I. Call to Order

Amber called the meeting to order at 6:11pm CT.

II. Introductions

Ice breakers – members introduced themselves and shared their favorite comfort food.

III. Approval of Minutes

Bridget made a motion to approve the minutes and Christine seconded. Approval of minutes passed with a voice vote.

IV. Standing Items

A. Open Council Positions- Two council members have termed out and recently welcomed Krista Johnson from Yankton who is present and added Peggy Waltner from Freeman who was not able to attend. Currently, waiting on appointments from the Governor's Office.

V. Family Support Providers

A Conversation was had with Family Support Providers. The providers were given a list of questions that the council would like answered.

Family Support providers present included: Jessica Lang with LifeQuest, Hedio Valer with LifeScape, Edie Kavanagh with Volunteers of America, Nikki Kavanagh and Ionela Georgescu with SESDAC, Teri Bukowski with Benchmark, Danielle Phillips with Center for Independence and BHSSC was absent but did provide a list of responses to the questions.

Council members asked providers questions about their background, waitlist, and what is going and what could be improved with their agencies.

Bridget made a motion to move public comment to tonight and to move waiver renewal until tomorrow. Christine seconded the motion. Motion passes with a voice vote.

VI. Public Comment

Public comment was held. The main themes of the public comment were the hiring freeze, AWC, and the waitlist. Some of the public that was present voiced their frustration with the lack of communication and how the program appeared to be changing. The public felt that services should be more individualized for each participant. Some members of the public were looking for

assistance from the storms that had passed through Sioux Falls. Discussion was also had on expanding the program and the possibility of adding more support coordinators.

Joanne HS left meeting.

Bridget made a motion to table and go into recess and Krista Johnson seconded. Motion passes with a voice vote.

Tina made a motion to come out of recess and Krista Johnson seconded. Motion passes with a voice vote.

Janet Whiting was absent for remainder of meeting.

VII. Waiver Renewal

The Family Support Waiver is still under review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Adding common law model and specialized therapy services. We anticipate hearing on approval by the end of the month. There were 6 rounds of questioning from when we submitted the waiver until now. CMS does not have any additional questions and we are just waiting for approval. Specialized services will be started quickly when approved. The common law option when approved, we will try and move forward with a provider who may be interested in exploring that option.

VIII. Standing Items

A. Grievances & Appeals- 1 appeal that went to a fair hearing. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) agreed with DHS's decision and the appeal was about SMAES. The appeal process can vary on the amount of time that it takes to get a decision. Once it moves to a fair hearing DHS cannot talk about an appeal situation with family/participant.

B. SMART Data - SMART system is an IT system that measures performance measures in both the CHOICES and Family Support 360 waiver. These elements are agreed upon by CMS and the State. Through those the performance measures we outline show we are going to track the performance of our waivers. One way we track that is through monthly compliance reviews which are conducted by Community Support Specialists at the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Every year we report this data to CMS.

ISP monitoring is done quarterly by the Family Support Coordinator. It is currently below 86%. The state did develop a process guide and a template for coordinators.

What happens if coordinator reaches out and the family doesn't respond? The coordinator needs to document those attempts.

The initial family assessment on the handout appears incorrect.

IX. Executive Committee for July 2022-June 2023

Bridget motions and Tina seconds for Amber to remain chair for another year. Motion passes with a voice vote.

Bridget made a motion for Michelle to be vice-chair and Krista seconds. Motion passes with a voice vote.

Tina made a motion for Krista to remain Secretary and Bridget seconded. Motion passes with a voice vote.

X. American Rescue Act Plan Update

There are no new updates from the state level. No council members have had any new updates.

XI. Participant Served Map and Family Support Provider Agencies Map

Discussed maps and what they mean.

Request was made by the Council to put a date on the maps. Put agency in front of the name on the map as well.

XII. Planning List

1303 Total Participants with 179 individuals on a planning list. Total number of participants decreased by 16 and the number of people on a planning list increased by 24.

LifeQuest is currently serving 189 participants and has 36 people on their planning list. LifeQuest is serving 3 less participants from last quarter. LifeQuest's planning list has 36 participants.

Dakota Milestones is currently serving 72 participants and has 11 participants on their planning list.

SESDAC is currently serving 119 participants and has 51 people on their planning list. SESDAC's planning list has increased by 16 since April with the majority of those in the Sioux Falls area. 2/21/2021 is the longest someone has been on their planning list.

Benchmark is currently serving 261 participants and has 80 people on their planning list. This has increased by 10 since April of 2022.

HACFI is currently serving 79 participants and has 15 people on their planning list.

VOA is currently serving 171 participants and has 61 people on their planning list. This has decreased by 1 since April 2022.

LifeScope is currently serving 151 participants and has 20 people on their planning list.

BHSSC is currently serving 261 participants and has 15 people on a planning list but has spots for those people. They are currently collecting information from families and have the open spots on their programs for those individuals.

General Trends

- Overall most providers are serving a few less people since April
- The planning list for most providers has gone up
- Not uncommon to see provider numbers drop some in the summer due to participants going to extended camps or schools. Participants must receive at least one waiver service a month to remain eligible

Benchmark has added an additional program in the Sioux Falls Area. Requires funding at the state level and a provider willing to open an additional program. Is there funding for growth and why aren't more programs opening programs? Are there things the Council can do to promote growth with providers?

Untapped resource at Watertown for outsourcing for a 2-year program from Watertown. Viable career but not presented as such. This career path could use an upgrade in appeal.

Workforce and having a universal list. How can we present this as more appealing?

XIII. Application

DDD talked about translation work with BHSSC. The Council asked if the application is culturally acceptable?

The recordings are not in another language.

Talked about the resource guide. Lots of acronyms in the resource guide.

Went on a 15-minute break at 9:45 AM until 10 AM.

XIV. Front Door to Supports Work Group

Items were discussed with the council on the efforts that the work group is currently working on.

Looking at work group why is there no self-advocate? DDD made many attempts but had not luck in getting one to volunteer for it. Would like to make sure there is cultural awareness in the workgroup or that it is taken into consideration.

South Dakota Parent Connection website and language options may be something to look at.

XV. State Meetings

A. Community of Practice (CoP) – Is a group of professional family members and self-advocates. It's a partnership with UKMC. It turned into a national movement. How to support people in their own home. Training and capacity building, plain language, dual diagnosis, and navigation between transition time. Cross agency plan, listserv, identify how is not getting information, reconvene group for sharing and collaborating.

B. Ambassadors – Recommendations for collective actions. Support one another and share resources, be intentional, connect with schools, and host more events. They continue to identify partners who may be interested in becoming an ambassador. Julie Hand is the lead on Ambassadors and DDD can connect people with Julie.

C. Leadership – Started developing tangible action steps. Connection and collaboration will be this year's priority. Increase engagement of family members in the CoP for Supporting Families. Gather, catalogue, and streamline the information and resources to highlight efforts and identify opportunities to partner. Establish "affinity groups" around key topics.

Tina motioned to move by-laws after public comment and was seconded by Krista Johnson. Passed with a voice vote.

XVI. Amend the By-Laws – Second Reading and vote of when the Meeting Agenda Needs to be Published

This is the 3rd time we are talking about the by-laws and moving the agenda time to 72 hours to align with ARSD. If codified law changes, then we would have to change it. If we change it to 72 hours it gives families less time to plan. Amber feels like it gives families more time. What gives families the best option? At least 72 hours prior but gives opportunity to provide that information before that. The purpose of the 72 hours was to give more flexibility. Amber would like something in compliance with open laws. Wants a draft agenda at 10 days and needs to be posted by 72 hours. Want to find a balance between agencies. December agenda will be posted 10 days in advance.

Tina motions to table voting and do a new first reading in December. Krista Johnson Seconds. Motion passes with a voice vote.

XVII. Public Comment Period

Members of the public were looking to become more involved on a statewide level.

The DD Council informed the council that they have a Facebook page and were looking for stories to share. There is a magazine available on people with disabilities and their path to find

employment. An assessment with people with mental health disabilities. The hiring freeze was brought forward as another issue with the current system. There was talk about the “Gray Wave” and the need for a robust system to support the aging families that are having trouble caring for their children with disabilities. More information was requested for the “common law” option. The public wanted to also know if there was going to be a response in regards to the hiring freeze in AWC.

XVIII. Council Discussion

Discussion was had on what was appreciated today in our meeting.

XIX. Next Meeting

December 2nd and 3rd in Pierre. DDD is hoping to have the Cabinet Secretary attend meeting along with Intake Specialist, Jessica Solberg. Some hotel rooms would be considered too close to be reimbursed for. Amending the by-laws, participant map, planning list, CSP hiring freeze update, ISPs and those changes, and more discussion on community of practice. Update on the 3 strategies from CoP.

XX. Adjournment

Tina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM CT, Krista Bau seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote.

X

Krista Bau
Secretary