

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Council		Attending: Council Members: Liz Hecht, Patti Becker, Kelly Blaschko, Mitch Hagopian, Chris Hanten, Pamela Hencke, Wendy Heyn, Barbara Katz, Kristal Knudtson, Angela Radloff, Walt Schalick, Lisa Stephan, Beth Swedeen, Sandra Tierney, Maddie Valent, Lisa Hanks, Nissan Bar-Lev
Date: 4/7/2021	Time Started: 9:00 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:20 p.m.
		Members absent: Naomi Beahm, Todd Breaker, Katy Morgan-Davies, Kirsten Menningen, LaKesha Pettigrew, Cherie Purdy
		Public Attendees: Bill Perez, Kim Ray, Vicky Gunderson, Nichole Kwasny
		Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) State Staff: Deb Rathermel, Secretary Karen Timberlake, Curtis Cunningham, Andrew Forsaith, Kate Johnson, Becky Burns, Dan Kramarz, Becky Granger, Anna Fosdick, Jessica Gehr, Matt Rundle, Beth Gullickson, Alex Cammilleri, Mary Schmierer, Lori Garsow, Brooke Anderson, Kat Van Hampler, Nancy Bills, Abby Hammes, Sophie Lee
Location: Zoom Conference Call		Presiding Officer: Liz Hecht, Chair

Minutes

Welcome and attendance

Operational

- Approval of January 13, 2021, draft minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes without changes made by: Mitch Hagopian, Seconded by Kelly Blaschko
 - Motion passed unanimously

Public Comments: None

Meet and Greet with Secretary Karen Timberlake

- Secretary Timberlake attended, introduced herself, shared information about Governor Evers' biennial budget and listened to priorities from various council members. Budget priorities related to the CLTS Council include: statutory language change to create entitlement for the CLTS program and Medicaid expansion.
- Council members shared actions by council in past five years and future goals including: CLTS program advocacy, HealthCheck Other Services (EPSDT benefit), disability resource center for children and families, growth and progress of CLTS program in family-centered approach, streamlined approach to new program referrals, provider shortage, priority to ending waitlist to serve all children with disabilities in Wisconsin and the value of CLTS programs.
- There was a recommendation to share these and other stories with the legislature during four upcoming [Public Hearings](#) hosted by the Joint Finance Committee in April

2021-2023 DHS Budget Overview (DHS Budget Director, Andy Forsaith)



Governor Evers
2021-2023 Biennial E

- DHS has a [webpage](#) for information on the budget.
- The full budget bill is [here](#).
- The CLTS language is in Section 795 of the bill. It reads: *SECTION 795. 46.995 (4) of the statutes is created to read: 46.995 (4) The department shall ensure that any child who is eligible and who applies for the disabled children's long-term support program that is operating under a waiver of federal law receives services under the disabled children's long-term support program that is operating under a waiver of federal law.*

Disability Resource Center (DRC) for Children and Families



BIENNIAL BUDGET
PROPOSAL - Disabili



DRCCF2021Ask
(002).pdf

- Various advocates and families developed the attached proposed for statewide Disability Resource Centers for Children and Families (DRCCF). The Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) have approved and join in support of this proposal.
- The proposal includes a request for \$2.9 million in state GPR to support this project, which is not currently included in the Governor's proposed budget.
- Some CLTS Council members (as citizens) are in conversation with a couple of Joint Finance Committee members.
- Other potential funding discussed included use of Medicaid surplus if unable to actualize if they cannot get into budget or enhanced FMAP/administrative funding as a short-term solution, with budget approval.

BCS Program Access Initiative Updates



BCS Program Access
Initiative Standardiz

- The goal of this initiative is to provide statewide access system operated at a local level.
- Three areas of Program Access workgroup focus include:
 - Statewide standardization of processes, materials, and practices, which is the topic of discussion for this meeting.
 - Professional development and quality assurance
 - Development of statewide database.
- Discussion from committee members included:
 - Referring families to Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) within resources is a welcome addition.
 - Encourage use of plain language in the abundance of written information. Received insights from families multiple times along the path to implementation.
 - Development of information page of helpful community resource networks for families, such as Family Voices, Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (Wisconsin FACETS), Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc. (ABC for Health), and contacts for the CLTS waiver program (county and state).
 - Council-identified urgency in implementation of these materials.
 - Comments on connection of Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) with CLTS and collaboration of dual enrollments. There are a majority of counties that run these programs more different than similarly who are not interested. Therefore, the outcomes are separate.
- Continued progress on access work will be brought to the CLTS Council.

Break

BCS Updates/News

- Autumn Knudtson has been promoted to Director, Bureau of Benefits Policy (BBP) at DHS; Bureau of Children's Services, Deputy Director position is posted through 4/8/21.
- Position recently approved in the Bureau of Benefits Policy (BBP) for a HealthCheck Other Service-Specific Policy Analyst
- Title change of Technical Assistance team members to [children and family program specialist](#). Shortened to program specialist, this name reflects all that the team does to support and partner with all related audiences (families, children, waiver agencies, and others).
- The K Waiver extension was approved by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue all current provisions during the federal public health emergency (PHE); the "high" end date is six months after the end of the PHE.
- Council members provided comments about current flexibilities and eventual reconstitution of ongoing program requirements:
 - Parent payments as paid provider has been helpful for families during this time and is still a factor for children who have not returned to school and families navigating return to work and child care. Payments to parents as transportation providers is federally allowable and being written in upcoming waiver renewal application.
 - Nursing and personal care are federally excluded from paying parents as providers. Discussion on Medicaid coverage limitations and challenges with the prior authorization process application questions. Recommend inviting Ian Stevens, section chief for prior authorization team, to a Council meeting.
 - Flexibilities for remote provision of services are being incorporated into permanent practice
 - Flexibility to annual functional screen requirement will change at end of federal public health emergency
- On hold: rebranding of CLTS waiver name.
- Updating of CLTS webpages with goal of being more family friendly.
- Expect public posting of CLTS renewal waiver application on May 3, 2021. It will be posted 30 days for public input. Submission to CMS is aimed for August, 2021.
- Discussion on permission to use existing funding for professional development to support intake eligibility and enrollment work in relation to Stat 13.10; this may be discussed in more detail at the July council meeting.

Council Member Updates and Announcements

- [Circles of Life Conference](#) will be held virtually on May 6 – 7, 2021 with Listening Session on May 5 from 4-5:30 p.m. DHS is presenting three topics:
 - A3 - Deciding Together–Thursday, May 6, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 - C13 - Developing Employment Preparedness–Thursday, May 6, from 3-4 p.m.
 - D18 - Birth to 3 Listening Session–Friday, May 7, from 9-10 a.m.
- Community Café for 50th anniversary of "The Week of the Young Child," there will be a presentation in Milwaukee: Black Families' Perspectives on Navigating an Autism Diagnosis and Services. Guest/Authors Presenters: Elizabeth Drame, Tara Adams, Veronica R. Nolden and Judy M. Nardi. The event is being held April 13 from 6–7:30 p.m. Email childrenservices@milwaukeecountywi.gov to register.

CLTS Waitlist and Enrollment Data

- Follow-up with county waiver agencies (CWAs) (Matt Rundle and Kate Johnson)



CLTS Enrollment
Waitlist Compliance

Discussion and feedback:

- Enrollment maps can be found on the [Waitlist webpage](#).
- The enrollment map can be found [here](#).
- The average length of time on the waitlist map can be found [here](#).

- Program enrollment continues to increase with CWAs continuing to enroll children into the program. The goal for enrollment of all children identified as enrollable in 2020 is March 31, 2021. BCS developed reports to track enrollment of all enrollable children and is conducting outreach specific to children identified as enrollable in 2020 to monitor progress and identify challenges.
- CWAs report progress in enrollment, hiring staff and continued referrals; challenges are occurring with time required to hire and train staff as well as unexpected staff leave.
- On the first Monday of April 2021, 369 new kids made enrollable. With the statewide enrollment initiative, “entitlement” is more significant than the monthly enrollment numbers to support growing program enrollment.
- Council discussion included:
 - Moving away from concept of having a waiting list as long as funding exists. Will need approval in next budget to continue not have a statewide waiting list for children
 - Monitoring enrollment in context of potentially eligible children by county and eventually in the statewide enrollment database.
 - Consideration of a state intervention team to handle unexpected support and service coordination emergencies. Hearing CWAs want to get to a point where they can easily manage their enrollment base and are increasing their work force. Look to counties as a next step to plan for these emergencies.
 - CWAs are committed to enrolling all children. Exponential growth is much greater than anticipated. CWAs feel they will be able to manage all children that come to their program once they get on top of this large group of enrollments.

Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP)

- Discussed annual CCOP plans and expenditures in the past four calendar years.
- CCOP as a flexible funding source to support families of children with disabilities—\$11 million state funding, allocated to all counties. CCOP use for children:
 - Not enrolled in CLTS waiver as a one-time need, some who are only enrolled in CCOP and not CLTS.
 - Providing a service that is not covered in CLTS waiver.
 - CLTS Maintenance of Effort and up to 2021, match funding.
- Unspent CCOP funding is used in future years for high-cost expenditures.
- Five-year CCOP plan updates are expected for 2022.
- CWAs identify a need with a family and fit that need with the right funding source, using CCOP as a holistic means of meeting those needs or to support undocumented qualifying immigrants.

Future Agenda Items

- State-level use of CCOP, including categories of service expenditures, number of kids using CCOP, those that don’t meet CLTS criteria but still need CCOP, High Cost CCOP funding, etc. County Perspective: Questions to be addressed via Wisconsin County Human Service Association Long-Term Care (WCHSA LTC) PAC and brought back to CLTS Council.
- [CCOP guide](#)
- Next Meeting July 14, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Lori Garsow on 4/07/2021.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 7/14/2021