

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, Lisa Hanks, Chris Hanten, Pamela Hencke, Wendy Heyn, Barbara Katz, Kristal Knudtson, Cherie Purdy, Angela Radloff, Walt Schalick, Lisa Stephan, Beth Swedeen, Sandra Tierney, Maddie Valent Members absent: Nissan Bar-Lev, Naomi Beahm, Todd Breaker, Mitch Hagopian, Kristen Menningen, Katy Morgan-Davies, LaKesha Pettigrew Public Attendees: Melanie Cairns Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) staff: Deb Rathermel, Curtis Cunningham, Andrew Forsaith, Jeff Blankenheim, Kate Johnson, Jake Jokish, Becky Burns, Dan Kramarz, Matt Rundle, Beth Gullickson, Mary Schmierer, Lori Garsow, Brooke Anderson, Kat Van Hampler, Laura Knott, Monica Olson, Dana Denker, Jenny Marchese, Emily Brach, Cindy DeVito, Tim Waller, Alexis Heighway, Cindy Cardona, Nancy Bills, Abby Hammes,
Date: 7/14//2021	Time Started: 9:00 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:20 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Conference Call			Presiding Officer: Liz Hecht, Chair
Minutes			

Welcome and attendance

Operational

Approval of April 7, 2021, draft minutes

- Motion to approve minutes without changes made by: Walt Schalick, Seconded by Beth Swedeen
- Motion passed unanimously

Public Comments

None

Katie Beckett Centralized Intake (Kat Van Hampler BCS Section Manager)

- Statewide toll-free number for Katie Beckett Intake became operational on June 14, 2021. This created a single point of contact for families to start the intake process for Katie Beckett, eliminating the regional based phone numbers.
- An Intake Specialist answers calls in real time and starts the intake no matter where the person lives in Wisconsin. If all Intake Specialists are busy when a call comes in, the voicemail will be responded to in one business day. Families that speak a different language have access to an interpreter in real time who comes onto the call the first time the family calls.
- The functional screen can be completed during this initial call or scheduled for a later time.
- If the functional screen indicates eligibility for Katie Beckett and the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program, then the Intake Specialist sends an email to the county CLTS intake, and the functional screen is shared with the county CLTS Program by the following business day. There is a reciprocal process in effect if a family completes an intake and functional screen with the county for CLTS and is found eligible for Katie Beckett. This process results in only one functional screen for eligibility of either or both CLTS and Katie Beckett.

- If a parent calls seeking information about Katie Beckett coverage and benefits, the Katie Beckett Intake Specialist refers the caller to Medicaid Member Services.
 - o The Katie Beckett Intake Specialists Team has also been meeting with Member Services call center staff and the Ombudsman office to educate about Katie Beckett Medicaid and to help escalate calls when parents have challenges related to coverage and benefits.
 - o Council members express concern about the knowledge of Medicaid member benefits call center in regards to Katie Beckett, HealthCheck Other Services, etc. Brooke Anderson from DHS will take this back for further improvements.
- Outreach to educate families, partners, and providers about this new centralized intake phone number is ongoing.
 - o DHS has updated online material to remove references to Compass Wisconsin: Threshold and communicated to counties to update their websites as well. This information has also been shared on two recent CLTS teleconferences, and an email message was sent to all providers.
 - o CLTS Council members recommended increased outreach to others partners or referral sources that may not receive a provider email message, such as child care centers and doctor's offices, as well as sharing this information with databases/contacts via the Birth to 3 Program, other DHS agencies, and state partners.
 - o CLTS Council members requested a plain language communication about this change to share in their email blasts and via social media. BCS staff will follow up with council members on this item.

CCOP Expenditure and Utilization Trends

BCS staff presented information about the Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) including program requirements, fiscal trends and county administration. Data on expenditures and access for a three-year trend 2017-2019 was reviewed.

Discussion included the following questions and next steps:

- Outreach and access, including, maximum utilization, consistent application and equitable access.
- Promotion of program benefits and communication with families.
- Local operation of CCOP, including application to maintenance of effort requirement, CCOP boards.
- The [CCOP Procedures Guide](#) includes policies for administration of CCOP and was updated in May 2021.
- Council members asked questions about what counties can spend CCOP, statutory requirements, current program utilization, and application of unspent funds. This was identified as a future council meeting topic.

2021-2023 DHS Budget Update

DHS Budget Director Andrew Forsaith provided a summary of key children's program items included in the State of Wisconsin budget that was signed into law by Governor Evers on July 8, 2021.

- BCS program items included:
 - o The budget included funding for the CLTS Program to support ongoing state-level enrollment through 2023; it did not include "entitlement" statutory language for CLTS. In addition, the Disability Resource Center for children was not included in the signed budget.
 - o The Birth to 3 Program received a permanent increase in one-time program funding provided in the 2019-2021 budget; expansion of the Birth to 3 Program to include lead exposure was not approved.
- Medicaid-related items included:
 - o Rate increases for: personal care rate, behavioral health services.
 - o Behavioral Health Crisis Care funding.

BCS Updates/News to Share

- **Staff Updates (Deb Rathermel):** Becky Granger has accepted the position of BCS Deputy Director. Becky begins her new role June 20, 2021.
- **Waiver Renewal (Jessica Gehr)**
 - o The draft CLTS Program Waiver application was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on July 12, 2021, the culmination of work by BCS with input from partners, stakeholders, families and the general public.
 - The CLTS webpage will be updated to reflect the key features of the waiver application.

- o Internal work at BCS has already begun planning and preparing for anticipated new waiver services (rates, service description, etc.) and provider outreach.
- o After CMS approval, program changes will be implemented over time.
- It was recommended that DHS post the final draft waiver application, timeline, and updated overview of changes on the website. This is in consideration, with the acknowledgement that CMS has not approved the content of the application.

Children with Medical Complexity (CMC) Goal cards pilot (Becky Burns, Abby Hammes)

Staff presented on the goal cards pilot, which were developed to help children and families generate ideas for goals development. The goal cards include 60 cards across five primary topic areas and were finalized after 50 families reviewed and provided input. It is intentional that goal cards are not overly specific; they are meant to be a starting point for conversation and allow for families to greater define goals for themselves.

The goal cards were piloted by a small number of CLTS counties from each region with participants and families. Participants were surveyed about the results. Thirty-three responses were received; the majority of participants were under 8-9 years old with some teenagers.

- Survey results overall found that the cards were useful and improved facilitated conversation around goals.
- Parents were surprised at what their children picked as their goals, increases child voice and choice.
- Strong interest was in transition-themed deck of goal cards as well as for goals to be shared across systems (school, medical, CLTS etc.).

Council Member sharing and discussion

The council chair introduced and facilitated a new agenda item aimed at sharing of challenges or concerns for the council to be aware of and possibly address in future council meetings. Discussion topics included:

- Examples or instances of families experiencing longer wait times for CLTS services than what is reflected on DHS waitlist and enrollment data/map.
- Requests from families to have more information and make connections at younger ages for involvement in community.
- Providing opportunities for younger children to participate in and develop choice making abilities. The Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) would like to coordinate with CLTS at the state and local level about choice-making opportunities.
- Questions about coordination of supports and services when children are in residential placements.
- Clarification for families about CCOP eligibility and services.
- Challenges and the process for accessing respite.
- Application of CLTS to fund “general population” opportunities for children with disabilities, specifically for peer respite and in context of school system coverage.
- Challenges accessing Spanish-speaking providers.
- Challenges with provider access and coordination of services for children who have complex and skilled medical care needs (home health, personal care).

Statewide Enrollment Status (BCS Staff Matt Rundle)

- BCS staff provided a walkthrough of a newly created dashboard showing CLTS enrollment status across all Wisconsin counties; the dashboard is expected to be launched early the week of July 19 and will be announced via email. Emailing list messages will also be distributed with monthly dashboard updates.
- This interactive dashboard replaces the monthly enrollment reports for county waiver agencies (CWAs), which have been emailed individually to each county by BCS.
- CWAs are enrolling three to four times the number of children into CLTS than in the past. This dashboard supports local communication about these efforts and helps the state monitor progress with local efforts to achieve ongoing enrollment. Contributing factors to enrollment increases were discussed, including:
 - o Younger children being referred.
 - o Families expressing mental health providers not meeting their needs perhaps due to COVID-19.
 - o Families hearing that there is no longer a waitlist so they are more motivated to reach out and apply.
 - o COVID-19 cases decreasing and returning to more “normal” routines and activities in the community.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Waiver Funds (Curtis Cunningham and Deb Rathermel)

DMS leadership provided an update about Wisconsin's application for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Enhanced Funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). An excerpt from the plan describes the focus of this enhanced funding:

Wisconsin's plan for the use of the ARPA 10% HCBS enhanced federal funds demonstrates a commitment to enhance, expand, and strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid program through a focus on workforce issues related to direct care workforce recruitment, retention, quality, and diversity.

Highlights of this request include:

- Immediate funding for the HCBS system in CY22 (5% increase in rates in all programs).
- Funding initial implementation of direct care service career ladder.
- Tribal long-term care systems and enhancement of the provision of long-term care services to tribal members,
- Independent Living and Family/Informal Caregiver Resources.
- Funds Family Resource Center for Children with Disabilities.

Next Meeting October 13, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 2:21p.m.

Prepared by: Mary Schmierer on 7/16/2021.