

**Participant-Directed Programs Policy Collaborative (PDPPC) Meeting
October 27, 2021**

DRAFT Stakeholder Minutes for Review in November

John called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

John said that he had to go out of town unexpectedly last week and snail mail did not get out in time. He suggested that we discuss last month's minutes next month. Housekeeping details about the meeting and attendance were handled.

Open Forum #1

1. Julie R.: Issue with people in rural areas having PO Boxes not their address on documents. Their EVV exemption forms are getting denied. Why can't the case manager attest that the live-in caregivers live there? She asked that it go on the agenda for the next meeting and then will likely request a policy change.
2. Allysonat Consumer Direct: Update from CDCO -- she is leaving and hopes to have a new state director to introduce.
3. Tim Thornton: Echoed Julie's concern and said that people who move especially in unincorporated areas also have problems with EVV. They try to use GPS/Google maps but the areas where people live are not recognized.
4. Patricia Martinez: Since they did upgrade they have not been able to log on and called many times but playing phone tag. Should she call EVV or CDASS? She was told we will discuss EVV later in the meeting.

CDASS RATE INCREASE: Erin said that they are finishing up the November rate increase for CDASS. It is in effect for 11/1. HCPF helped key the PAR for case management. If you have not gotten a letter you will get it soon. Your FMS should be able to answer questions re your new allocation. They also have a 1/1/22 rate increase. There are different rates for different waivers and based on location.

- Kitten asked about the retroactive rate increase that was allocated based on a memo. CDASS was not part of this. Kitten asked how she would know this looking at the memos. If it has to do with CDASS it will say it on the key words.
- Will there be an increase in the daily rate cap of \$285? Erin does not know and will check it out.

Erin shared her screen re the rate changes.

- Stephanie asked if the rate increase in January will be the same in terms of HCPF doing the entries. Erin said that is not possible and apologized and there is information coming about new processes and upgrades that will make it simpler. You can now copy allocation and there is a function for a new geographic modifier for Denver.
- Marsha asked why there is such a big difference between IDD and non IDD. Erin said this is a long standing disparity and they are trying to rectify this.
- David Bolin: Denver rate does not reflect that the Denver minimum wage is 87 cents an hour higher than the Governor's new mandate. The \$18.79 will not allow for this. Having the rates be identical is unfair to CDASS clients living in Denver. These are adjusted rates that are reduced 10.75% to cover administrative costs. For CDASS employers to be competitive in Denver they need enough of an increase to cover wages that HCPF has known about for years. Erin said Denver rates were mandated by the legislature. They have done a lot of analysis for CDASS and we are paying our workers more. Julie said this is done by not using all of our hours to pay a higher rate.
- Renee asked about where she could find the chart. Erin made the chart and it comes off of the allocation worksheet. CDCO said "Monthly Allocation (MA) Worksheets effective 11/1/2021 are currently posted to our website. "

The CDASS MA can be found at <https://consumerdirectco.com/cdass-forms/>.

And the SLS-CDASS MA can be found at <https://consumerdirectco.com/sls-cdass-forms/>.

- Tim asked when the IHSS rate change would happen. Erin is not sure.
- Jessica shared: There is also the opportunity to join the Compensation & Benefits action group with the Direct Care Workforce Collaborative. This group is actively forming strategies to improve compensation which involves researching and creating formal recommendations about the rate setting process. If interested to join please fill out this form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mLQuuzhq9muNSUV2DTRU8Bsk7jUOgd9hbN57GhBHnvo/edit?usp=drive_web

Governor Polis posted a press release saying he supported a \$15 minimum wage for all home care workers and HCPF is implementing this.

VACCINE REQUIREMENTS: Erin said there is a vaccine requirement for licensed agencies. We are not required to do this for CDASS but people wanted to know what others are doing so Erin said that this fall CDPHE mandated vaccines for home care workers. There is a waiver for a sincerely held religious or medical issue and that is submitted through the health department. They did recently put out a change for live-in caregivers in mid October and they are not subject to immunization mandates. They have to do certain things like use PPE when they work with members or employees. Agencies need to maintain documentation of who those people are. There is a [live blog](#) from the health department on how home care agencies are dealing with this.

Someone asked: What will reporting be for exceptions? Erin does not know as this will come from CDPHE.

They have heard about agencies struggling with staffing and Jessica shared about a collaborative for increasing the direct care workgroup. Statewide group that HCPF is hosting -over 400 engaged with this and the focus is to identify the unique and critical challenges facing the direct care workforce. Need for career advancement and training opportunities. Need more of us at the table. Reach out to Jessica if you are interested in learning more and joining. Here is the website for the Direct Care Workforce Collaborative. <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/direct-care-workforce-collaborative>

Subcommittee Report Outs:

- 1) IHSS subcommittee meeting-every other month on 2nd Tuesday (11/9 next meeting).
- 2) UR/UM (Utilization Review/Utilization Management) Discusses URUM process, coming up on a year of Telligen doing reviews for skilled services in March. They have been honing in on process issues, answering questions, etc. If there are concerns about UR/UM, come to that group.
- 3) IHSS agency as AR: Monthly 4th Thursday (10/28 next meeting). They are working on transition to stop having agencies as AR. They anticipate a rule change effective 1/1/22. No longer allow agencies to serve as AR. They have worked on rules, changing forms, and transition plans for agencies that currently serve as AR for their members. Julie asked what happens if someone cannot find a new AR. They are changing requirements hoping to open up the pool. They will work individually with people to troubleshoot and find a solution. Curt said most agencies will not take new clients unless they have workers lined up. Is anything being done to address this? Kristine said they are aware of this and are trying to work with agencies to ensure that all who want to be a part of IHSS

can and they want specific case examples. Irina asked if the rates included sick time and Erin said she did not know but will ask for input from rates.

- 4) EVV: Workgroup was to develop EVV compliance protocol. They have developed a protocol. At this point the protocol will be presented to MSB . Protocol was posted yesterday and they plan to disseminate it.

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/participant-directed-programs>

This says that when the FMS portal is not working clients will not be penalized.

If the app is not working people can use the portal. Going on 11/12 and she

wants comments on the protocol. Need to notify HCPF and FMS within 5 days.

They will have a google form. They also have a phone number. 303-866-

3350<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/Electronic%20Visit%20Verification-CDASS%20Compliance%20Protocol-V1.0-October%202021.pdf>

Curt said he sent something to EVV and was told HCPF was not going to be responsible for

FMS failures. Lana will review this. Erin said they really need feedback from

us. Erin said it is HCPF's responsibility to make sure vendors have systems that

work.

- Someone asked who I would contact if approved for a live-in caregiver who does not know how to submit time. That would be the FMS. They do not need to use EVV.
- Julie said that attendants must be paid for all time so do not let them sit on hold with FMS unless you can pay for it. Submit complaints via Google form to HCPF to save time if you cannot get immediate answer from FMS

- 5) Background check work group: This was paused in May as they needed to do some research. This will be revived soon. If you are interested

jessica.corral@state.co.us

- 6) Employer 101: Emily Harvey hosting workshops for employers on 12/8 and 12/9 and they are excited about it. They meet the first Tuesday of every month from 1-3. They have 5 learning sessions and one panel. Deeper dive than what we got in training. They will have marketing materials soon To join or with questions emilyh@consumerdirectcare.com 844-381-4433

Attendance: Kitten Sheriden: Explained the new attendance form with voting eligible people in bold. She has provider agencies separately. She wanted to know if this works or if people want something different. People liked the format.

New Feedback Form for CDASS and IHSS: They want to make sure that all who want to provide feedback can do so and have a google form that we can use at any

time. They want one location where they can have all the information.

<https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/pdpissues> or call Jessica at 303-866-3504 if you want to call and cannot use a form. There was a question about anonymity. How to protect this either in survey or other adaptation? You can figure out the sender. Jessica said in general they recognize that giving feedback is uncomfortable or risky. They have a way to keep anonymous on the survey but the feedback form will not allow someone to remain anonymous but they can provide a name not their own if needed but she would like to learn more about what is the root of that.

PDPPC Proposed Recommendations:

Kevin Smith, Co-Chair, recapped the issue of allowing people to address changes for recommendations so this can get on the agenda and then move into a recommendation.

- 1) Age change for hiring (move from 18 to 16). Erin said that they are still waiting for a final response from AG and Legal. They reviewed all policy ramifications and outlined a document of what that would look like, presented to Bonnie Silva and waiting for legal.
- 2) Homemaker recommendation: Curt and Mark were not available to share what they found out.

ARPA: Large spending bill at federal level to support states in many ways. HCPF had to come up with ways to use funding and they submitted a plan to CMS and legislature and they are making great progress. There is a lot beyond PDPPC but she wanted to go over what touches our programs. One is Community First Choice and they will come share updates and get feedback. There is a great website about all of their plans. <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/arpa>.

This is a great way to be involved. They will be hiring a bunch of people, so lots of positions will be available. <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/careers-hcpf>. They are also funding an automated system to do rate changes for CDASS.

Health Families and Workplaces Act HFWA: Sick Time: In 2020 the legislature signed this act which brings sick time as a benefit to all who work. There was a phased implementation and as of 1/1/22 this is required for all employees. All employers need to provide sick time according to the law to all employees. There is info coming from FMS and HCPF and how this works for CDASS. They are building systems to accommodate sick time requests. 1 hour sick time for every 30 hours of work and accrual begins 1/1/22. They are finalizing details about how to use this and make requests. IHSS is already doing this. Robin asked if this includes family caregivers. Erin

said this applies to everyone. They would like to have this come outside of the budget but this may not be possible under CMS rules. Currently it is paid out of our allocation using a form that is available from the FMS vendors.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CDASS%20Temporary%20Sick%20Time%20Request%20Form-April%202020.pdf>

Kitten asked if we could investigate group health for caregivers.

Open Forum #2:

Gerrie Frohne: HCPF will soon announce a launch of a new assessment tool that will affect everyone on a waiver and be a new way to be assessed or reassessed and eventually it will be how all are assessed. She asked for everyone to review the information pasted here. It will affect all of us. <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/new-assessment-and-person-centered-support-plan> It will have a new budgeting process in the next couple years which will determine how much of an allocation people get. The meeting on 11/4 to discuss this is as follows:

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/kez-sjto-bqx

Join by phone (US) +1 513-818-1121 PIN: 748 891 977#

Description:

Stakeholders,

As indicated in the Save the Date sent a few weeks ago, the Department will be providing updates on the new Assessment, Person-Centered Support Plan, PCBA and the Care & Case Management (CCM) system.

Our IT vendor, Assurecare will be providing a demonstration/overview of the functionality of the new CCM system.

We will have a discussion and answer questions at this time as well.

We look forward to this time together and a robust conversation.

Lisa D.: Did we discuss the 40 hour workweek last time? Live-ins have to work more than this during the pandemic. Kevin asked her to put together verbiage and they will discuss

Rebecca from PPL: Wanted to say to give out PPL EVV helpdesk number 1-833-204-9041. She asked that people call this number. They have people that can troubleshoot issues and if they cannot fix them they can escalate to developers and team. Then they add to app updates and they also take suggestions about improving the app. She said if

there are corrections to paperwork they will email corrections because it is quick so if you have email on file that is the best way to do this. If it is a secure email they might have to create a password to get into the email.

Julie Miller: CDASS revision spreadsheet due today. Some have not been keyed in on the HCPF side and she wants to know how case managers are supposed to handle this. Should they wait on spreadsheets to be submitted? They cannot send notice letters until they get numbers back. Erin said send what they have and notate anyone missing. She thinks the majority are done as of last night. They only had 34 with FMS and 10 with HCPF for corrections and 80 with case management re eligibility.

Mark Simon: In the last session the legislature created a commission to work on training for first responders re how they interact with people with disabilities. More than 50% of people shot by law enforcement are people with disabilities. We need to be involved with this. This is on the AG website under HB 21-1122.<https://post.colorado.gov/about-post/hb-21-1122-first-responder-interactions-persons-with-disabilities>

Nathan Wofford: Where does the 40 hour requirement come from? Julie said it goes back 20 years to when CDASS started and was a compromise because we were one of the first to pay caregivers in the family and CMS was nervous. She also pointed out that if your budget can take it you can pay a higher rate.

Kirk Miller: Reminded everyone to thank their caregivers and others that do this important work.

John gave us a reminder that next month's meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday, as in the past, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. PDPPC meeting information is on the OCL online calendar at <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/OCL-stakeholder-engagement>

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.