



## MINUTES

### Transitions Stakeholder Advisory Council

Thursday, May 5, 2022

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Clarice Ambler, DRCOG
- Meghan Baker, Disability Law Colorado
- Anne Bartels, Sandata
- Monique Flemings, AHOD Services
- Paige Gallaher, Atlantis
- Jennifer Giurgila, ACMI
- Fallon Gillespie, Rocky Mountain Human Services
- Jennifer Krulewich, Focus Cares
- LaShawn Love, Love Foundation
- Tracy Martinez, Touch of Care
- Jenn Ochs
- Jane Sinclare, CPWD
- Neal Waite, ADRC Region 3B
- Miriam White, SJBAAA

Attendance Link: <https://forms.gle/EDaybu73WZAnPZH7>

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

2:30 p.m.

- Approval of the April Minutes

Clarice moved to approve minutes, minutes seconded. Approved.

- Purpose of Today's Meeting

Lisa Smith introduced today's topic, home modifications, and explained format of meeting. Lisa shared agenda in chat. Lisa asked for someone to take notes as Anne Bartels was not present at meeting. Clarice offered to take notes.



## 2. Program Updates

2:40 p.m.

Matt stated Lisa will now be running the Transition Services Advisory Council (TSAC) meetings from this point on and that he will be stepping back.

Matt explained that Money Follows the Person (MFP) has awarded five million dollars in additional grants. With this money, HCPF will be hiring an access eligibility manager, who will be working with large scale initiatives to ensure better streamlining between systems.

Matt talked about Department of Justice (DOJ) findings related to long term services and supports in Colorado. Matt stated that they were still at beginning of that process and that it will likely be while before there is more concrete information that can be shared.

Frank Rivas asked about where the money from MFP would go, Matt responded options were still being explored. One project that is being considered is a deep dive into current programs to actualize solutions, they will be looking at areas across system to see what kind of support is needed for those trying to move out of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and looking at additional settings that could be served. One idea that has been presented would be to create a community grant fund for transition services that would allow opportunity to streamline access to services and build local capacity.

Ian Engle noted that MFP and the Community First Choice (CFC) Act fund are meant to work together: CFC provides infrastructure and MFP provides the means.

Matt notes they are looking at foundation for building community first choice with position funded by MFP.

Luke W. asked where the five million dollar grants were coming from. Matt clarified it is from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of the public health emergency and that it was to be used on administrative projects to add support and expertise as it could not be spent on direct services.

## 3. Home Modifications

3:00 p.m.

- Panel

Naomi Hubert from Department of Labor and Employment (DOLA) presented on process:

Identify need for home modifications. Occupational therapist/physical therapist (OT/PT) does evaluation. Evaluation is completed and sent back to case manager (CM). Evaluation and bid requests sent to contractors. Once bids are completed, contractors send them back to CM. CM goes over bids with members and a contractor is chosen.



CM then sends completed home modification packet to the Department of Housing (DOH). Upon approval of packet, contractor sets up time to get work done.

- Discussion

Ian asked about DOJ findings regarding home modifications and how the current system, which requires those in SNFs to move out of SNF before modifications can be completed, creates a challenge to members and transition coordination agencies (TCAs). Ian asked if anything was being done to address this impasse.

Naomi stated she was not able to answer that as her organization doesn't work on the eligibility side. She suggested working with CM on temporary solutions, such as a temporary ramp.

Karin Stewart stated she is new to HCPF but is taking notes and intends to find answers for group after further research into this topic.

Lisa opened the conversation up and asked group how process could be improved

Frank noted that RSVP Handyman in his area is run by volunteer labor and has always been able to get the job done. Frank explained a situation in which a member of his did not receive a ramp for 14 months through the regular process, but when they went through RSVP Handyman, they were able to complete ramp in two weeks. Frank asked how long the home modification process usually takes.

Lisa asked Frank what was the biggest barrier during that time. Per Frank, the barriers including follow through, Covid, and the process for the OT/PT evaluation and bids. Frank also noted that Grand Junction has less accessible housing than other parts of Colorado and that temporary ramps aren't always a viable solution due to housing architecture and issues of theft.

Shannon Buchannon stated the western slope has only one Medicaid approved contractor, which greatly increased wait time. Frank noted there were now two or three contractors, but wait times were still a significant issue.

Naomi answered question regarding length of time process can take: It depends on when DOH received completed packet and also on contractor availability. Contractors have 60 days to start project and 30 days to complete it but are able to request extensions. Extension requests have increased lately.

Ian proposed solution to contractor issue by taking administrative burden of billing Medicaid off the contractors. Anne Watts noted that CM can approve smaller home modifications, up to \$2,500, then acknowledged Ian's idea was a good one. Anne did note that if an agency does the Medicaid billing, they are then considered the general contractor and that any work that is not completed by contractors the agency would be on the hook to get it completed.



## 4. Council Updates

4:00 p.m.

- Financial Eligibility Subcommittee

Clarice requested someone take up mantle for leading this subcommittee. Anyone interested, send email to [cambler@drcog.org](mailto:cambler@drcog.org)

## 5. Open Forum

4:10 p.m.

Shannon requested help with finding the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules regarding situation in which a member with several convictions from 20 years ago was being denied housing. This seemed to go against Fair Housing act. Anne Watts asked her to send her an email with basics of situation so she could look the into issue further and perhaps refer her to the Colorado Civil Rights Division.

Frank Rivas commented that technology has outpaced current practices and processes and it was becoming necessary to reveal current processes to catch up with current technology.

Ian noted issues with options counseling being done by nursing home staff and suggested having an outside agency ask the initial questions regarding wanting to move out of SNF.

Lashawn requested list of Alternative Care Facilities (ACFs) that take Medicaid. Jennifer offered to share list with her. Nora stated the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) offers this information on their site:

[cdphe.colorado.gov/find-and-compare-facilities](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/find-and-compare-facilities)

Kelly Graf advised you can also find it on Health First's site:

[www.healthfirstcolorado.com/find-doctors](https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/find-doctors)

Closing remarks:

Lisa placed Feedback survey link in chat.

Ian stated he appreciated the robustness of the conversations in these meetings.

Lashawn asked how the information gathered in these meetings is followed up on and how the council could be kept informed on that. Lisa suggested adding action items to agenda meetings. Lisa also stated information gathered in these meetings is used to inform Department meetings and actions steps.



Ian stated he'd like to see the meetings offer workgroup time to come up with deliverables.

Frank seconded this opinion and acknowledged frustrations that some challenges, such as the home modification challenges, have been ongoing for years and talked about many times, but nothing has changed. Jennifer Ochs agreed with Frank about the need to change and noted importance of knowing who we needed to talk with to make changes.

Lisa suggested expanding invites to the meeting to further increase reach of conversations.

## 6. Adjourn

4:30 p.m.

### Next Meeting June 2, 2022 - Housing

#### Submit Questions, Issues, and Comments:

<https://forms.gle/iRZb5zWq5SyMctEe8>

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify John Barry at [john.r.barry@state.co.us](mailto:john.r.barry@state.co.us) or the 504/ADA Coordinator at [hcpf504ada@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf504ada@state.co.us) at least one week prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

