



## AGENDA

### Transitions Stakeholder Advisory Council

Google Hangout Weblink: [meet.google.com/emq-kfpb-aex](https://meet.google.com/emq-kfpb-aex)  
Google Hangout Call-in: +1 470-268-2030  
PIN: 614 405 288#

Thursday, August 6, 2020  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Clarice Ambler, DRCOG X
  - Anne Bartels, PASCO X
  - Amy Dixon, CPWD X
  - Paige Gallaher, Atlantis
  - Jennifer Giurgila, Jefferson County X
  - Fallon Gillespie, Rocky Mountain Human Services X
  - Emily Harvey, Disability Law X
  - Ashly Johnson, DRCOG X
  - Jennifer Krulewich, Focus Care X
  - Tracy Martinez, Touch of Care
  - Ed Milewski, Jr.
  - Jenn Ochs X
  - Lisa Smith, Team Rubicon X
  - Neal Waite, ADRC Region 3B X
- Sarah Elliot, Vivage, Ryan McGee, DRCOG, Courtney Thomson, DOLA, Ann Watts, DOLA
- Department Staff: Katy Barnett, Nora Brahe, Matt Bohanan, Michelle Topkoff

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

2:30 p.m.

- Approval of the July Minutes – Emily from Disability Law Colorado requested an addition to the minutes under “Council Updates”. Specifically, she asked to add “specific to COVID” at the end of her update. The minutes were approved with this change.
- Purpose of Today's Meeting – Matt provided an overview of the agenda within the context of the Department's goal to expand stakeholder outreach.



## 2. Program Updates

2:35 p.m.

- Matt shared that the Public Health Emergency was officially extended to October 23, 2020. While that is positive and provides more time for the Department to rollback guidance, there are different timelines that the Department is preparing to communicate about in the coming weeks. The Department is also looking at all the guidance issued during the emergency and considering any rollback of that guidance to make sure communications are consistent.
- Matt provided the Council an update on the billing mechanisms for sustaining TCM-TC. When billing went live in February, a work around was created in the payment systems that caused issues for members who had private insurance or Medicare in addition to Medicaid. Matt and Nora have been working diligently with the systems team to correct the errors in Interchange and expect a solution to be implemented in the next few weeks.

## 3. Council Updates

2:45 p.m.

- Jenny from Focus Care did not have any major updates but did request help from Jennifer from Jefferson County with an encrypted email which was sent to a former Focus Care employee.
- Emily from Disability Law Colorado shared that this would be her last meeting. She accepted a new position at the Department of Education. Her colleague Meghan Baker will be applying to the Council to continue Emily's work. Emily shared it had been a great experience to work with everyone. Matt thanked Emily for her efforts on the Council and wished her the best of luck in her new role. Katy shared that the Council would receive a copy of Meghan's application after the meeting and they would have a chance to talk with Meghan at the next meeting and then vote on her application. Emily also shared that her boss would be leaving Disability Law Colorado soon as well.
- Ashly from DRCOG shared that referrals have slowed down but that may not be COVID specific as they saw a similar slow down last year. They are working on a mass outreach email to skilled nursing facilities and working with ombudsman to identify facilities with no COVID outbreaks to start providing options counseling again.
- Courtney from DOLA promised voucher data at the last meeting and shared that about [120] vouchers were issued this [year] across the state. There is some month to month variations but generally [120] vouchers are the average.
- Ann from DOLA shared that DOLA has a housing program that supports the 811 Rental Assistance Program. They were awarded \$7 million from HUD to sponsor seven new apartment projects with units in each for individuals with disabilities.



The funding supports individuals with disabilities with rental assistance for five years. Ann was excited to announce DOLA was just awarded a second grant from HUD for an additional \$6.5 million to fund another round of apartments with 5 to 6 buildings and 75 accessible units. Ann thanked Matt for his help in the application process. The entire Council gave a round of applause at the exciting news.

- Anne from PASCO shared that there would be no in-person PASCO picnic this year and they are trying to get the word out. PASCO is looking at an online alternative. She also shared they are looking to hire a Spanish speaking RN to support their Spanish speaking families and asked that the Council share the opportunity with anyone they believed would be qualified and interested.
- Fallon from Rocky Mountain Human Services shared that the SEP transition has been completed. RMHC hit the ground running trying to pick up where Colorado Access left off and supporting the same services. She added that RMHC will be changing the intake process on TCM-TC members. Members will stay with the intake case manager until the discharge date is set. Once discharge is set, members will be assigned to an HCBS case manager. Nora asked if Fallon had shared that information with Transition Coordination Agencies. Fallon said she would contact all the TCAs but asked that the information be communicated to nursing facilities. Nora offered to inform nursing facilities of the change.
- Jennifer from Jefferson County said they were seeing an increase in referrals from nursing homes for TCM-TC but have not been receiving a referral from the TCA. They have been putting these referrals on hold until they receive the appropriate TCA referral. Jennifer is in charge of processing and assigning these cases and she reaches out to TCAs to request referrals, but it can significantly delay the process if the referral is not received in a timely manner. Jennifer clarified that this was not the options counseling referral but rather the referral from options counseling to the TCA. The SEP needs both referrals from the TCA and the nursing facility before they can process the case. Jennifer shared that TCA referrals can be sent fax at 303-271-4207 or email to [oltcadmins@co.jefferson.co.us](mailto:oltcadmins@co.jefferson.co.us).
- Jennifer Ochs shared that CPWD had a really cool and inspiring event to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jennifer shared that she was very concerned with Medicaid's requirement that members bank accounts contain no more than \$2,000 a month or they could lose services. She sees this as a growing issue for many members. She also shared a growing concern for access to transportation for Medicaid members. RTD is facing financial troubles leading to cancelled routes. For a lot of people RTD is their only mode of transportation. She asked if Medicaid could support more accessibility efforts and encourage Lyft or Uber and other resources for members. Jennifer also shared that she is a Mobility for All Ambassador. All Mobility for All



workshops are online and individuals can learn how to use Uber, Lyft, Google maps and RTD. If you attend and fill out survey you can receive \$50 of credit for services. Nora asked Jennifer to send her information on the workshops and she would share with TCAs. Katy added that she can send the Mobility for All newsletter in the meeting follow up email for everyone to read. Jennifer shared that Angle Barns is Director of Mobility for All and she's working to get other agencies involved. They recently hosted a panel discussion update on RTD in Boulder.

- Michelle from the Department added to Matt's update on the Public Health Emergency extension that CMS could choose to extend the emergency again. Additionally, depending on when changes to services and regulations were put into place and how or where those changes were made, those pieces can determine when changes will end. For example, some changes will end when the Public Health Emergency ends, but others will end the last day of that month, or some will be the end of quarter, and still others will end January 1. Matt and team will work on sharing those dates with everyone after the meeting. Michelle also shared an update on retainer payments for providers during COVID which helped some providers get by when they were not providing services. These payments were removed rapidly without the Department being notified. The Department asked CMS and federal partners for enough notification so that there is not an adverse impact, specifically the Department asked for 90 days' notice but there has not been a response back yet. The Department is trying to advocate for members and providers on that issue at state level with many states.
- Neal from Boulder County shared that they have been really busy and the program team has done an internal scan of what the team can do now and how to support the Council's work.
- Nora from the Department shared the program had 131 transitions since January 1 which was pretty good considering the restrictions on the program due to COVID. She shared that she has been working with Christopher House to expand transitions and will be helping expand to other Vivage facilities in next few months. She also shared that the Transition Coordination Agency supervisors have a workgroup to create an online transition resource website.
- Sarah from Vivage thanked the Council for continuing to be included in the meetings. She said Christopher House is helping with the short-term nursing home population. They are working with independent life skills training prior to individuals transitioning to the community. Eventually, the long-term plan is to filter those short-term individuals to Christopher House, so far, it's going well. Many individuals have drug and alcohol history and they are working to support these individuals whether it's with housing or connecting them to supportive services in the community to be successful. Clarice from DRCOG shared she has



been hearing about the focus in the ombudsman community and always welcome to updates. Ashly asked as this moves forward for more communication. Her options counseling team has been fielding a lot of questions and it is impacting daily workflow. Ashly wants to make sure DRCOG options counselors can give their best and be as helpful as possible to support streamlining. Sarah said she would absolutely love to see this expand to Denver County and wants to make sure services can be brokered on both ends hopefully not creating a stop gap and asked for anyone to please reach out if any issues arise. Nora added clarification that in terms of Vivage, the program at Christopher House was unique to their facilities but as far as TCM-TC, it is not a separate referral process. Nora added any questions about transitions should be forwarded to her.

- Amy from PCWD, Ryan from DRCOG, and Lisa from Team Rubicon did not have updates to share at this time.

#### 4. Bylaws Workgroup

3:05 p.m.

- Katy shared we are at a natural transition point in program. With the end of the Colorado Choice Transitions program in December and the sustainability work around TCM-TC the Council has an opportunity to more clearly define their role and function. Therefore, the Department would like to set up a Bylaws Workgroup to review the current Council charter. She said it does not make sense for the state to define the role of this stakeholder group, but the Department would support the group with examples of existing charters for other stakeholder groups associated with the Department. The timeline for this would be starting in August and ending in January with the Council adopting the new bylaws. Katy shared a link to the current charter with the Council and asked for any volunteers she would also send out a reminder in the meeting follow up email.

#### 5. Council Yearlong Planning

3:15 p.m.

- Matt introduced the yearlong planning conversation sharing that this is meant to be an initial conversation on priorities and a first look at outlining a plan for the next six to nine months. He said the Department wants to make sure this works for everyone on the Council with the caveat that the planned stakeholder survey Katy will discuss later will inform this year long plan as well.
- Jennifer Ochs asked what the point of this effort was. Matt shared that the Department wants to increase stakeholder engagement regarding Transition Services. Katy added that by dedicating specific months to specific stakeholder concerns it would allow individuals interested in specific topics to meaningfully engage with the Council and the Department and provide a more concerted effort to achieve the goals identified by the Council and the community. Amy



asked for clarification on what constituted a stakeholder. Matt shared that it could be a broad range of individuals impacted by Transition Services, including providers, members, family members, community members and other community advocates. The Council was generally supportive of the first calendar draft.

- Matt added that at this time the draft planning calendar might change and that the goal would be to use stakeholder feedback to update the calendar in September and finalize the calendar in October.

## **6. Communications and Stakeholder Survey 3:45 p.m.**

- Katy provided an update on stakeholder communications and engagement. She shared that an email will be sent to the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) email list run by the Department notifying stakeholders of the opportunity to engage with the Council and Transition Services team. She also shared that the team has been working to develop additional communications platforms like a stand-alone email list for Transition Services and a Google Group to act as a message board. She said she would keep the Council updated on the progress of those efforts
- Katy then walked the Council through a planned stakeholder survey of priorities. The survey is based on the Council's SWOT analysis and additional identified barriers to Transition Services. The Council shared that the survey looked great and thanked Katy for her hard work presenting their ideas to the public. Katy shared that this survey would act as a follow up to the first LTSS email and that the link would also be shared with the Council members to solicit responses from their networks.

## **7. Public Comment 4:15 p.m.**

- Matt shared that to provide all meeting participants an opportunity to share information, the Department added a public comments section. While the public participants of the meeting did have an opportunity to share already, he opened it up to the group.
- Neal from Boulder County shared his excitement to be more engaged. He shared that he had been on the Council for several years now and that this felt like a real opportunity for positive change. Michelle asked Neal if he would volunteer for the bylaw committee and Neal agreed.
- Matt thanked Katy for the work she had put in on this effort. Katy shared that working with the Council was one of the best parts of her job.

## **8. Adjourn 4:30 p.m.**



- The Council adjourned at 4:05pm. Katy will send the Council a follow up email with the Mobility for All Newsletter, the Council Charter, Meghan Baker of Disability Law Colorado's Council application, and a chart of end dates for COVID guidance. The next meeting will be another Google Hangout.

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.

