



## MINUTES

### 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 5, 2021  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Clarice Ambler, DRCOG X
- Meghan Baker, Disability Law Colorado
- Anne Bartels, Sandata X
- Amy Dixon, CPWD X
- Monique Flemings, AHOD Services X
- Paige Gallaher, Atlantis X
- Jennifer Giurgila, Adult Care Management, Inc X
- Fallon Gillespie, Rocky Mountain Human Services X
- Jennifer Krulewich, Focus Cares X
- Tracy Martinez, Touch of Care
- Ryan McGee, DRCOG X
- Jenn Ochs X
- Lisa Smith, Team Rubicon
- Neal Waite, ADRC Region 3B X
- Miriam White, SJBAAA X

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

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

2:30 p.m.

- Approval of the July Minutes      Minutes approved
- Purpose of Today’s Meeting      Katy shared today’s agenda starts with welcoming a new council member, program updates from HCPF, community to community fact sheet discussion, majority of the time will be spent on yearly

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[hcpf.colorado.gov](http://hcpf.colorado.gov)



planning, group will divide into breakout rooms to discuss topics and bring back to larger group for discussion, ending with council updates and open forum.

## 2. Council Member Welcome & Updates

2:35 p.m.

- Ryan McGee – DRCOG

Clarice welcomed Ryan McGee to the council, who has also joined the education committee.

- Jennifer Giurgila – new role!

Jennifer updated the group on her new role as Case Manager Supervisor at Adult Care Management, Inc (ACMI) that serves Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties.

## 3. Program Updates

2:40 p.m.

Matt shared with the group the great news that on Monday, August 2, 2021 the Dept received the approval for MFP \$5M grant for both proposals in full. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase approach includes program evaluation, capacity and innovation. The Dept will work with a vendor for each phase of the project to assist with development, management and overall work. Initial evaluation phase includes working with all communities to identify where the challenges and barriers are and providing solutions to address them. Innovation phase to follow, will start simultaneously. Recognizing that this group has put a lot of effort into building program from scratch and with more support we can take this to the next level. Looking to identify where we can build resources in the capacity building phase and where we can work smarter to break down barriers. Innovation phase will focus on creating housing solutions and community first choice program. This is a long-term project for the next 4 years; timeline puts us through the end of 2025. Commitment is to ensure we're engaging people along the way, looking at issues and work on building something better. The Dept is creating 4 new, full-time positions with OCL to work on this project.

Second proposal is the Community Capacity Grant, both proposals are awarded in full to create grant fund opportunity for Transition Services. Hiring a vendor for development and one position in case management that will work with the vendor and all organizations, and another administrative position to support the work needed in the next 5 years. Looking at MFP statues, identify streamlined access to services, requirements to design your project which would be competitively submitted and awarded based on approval. Matt opened it up to group for Q&A.



Monique shared delay in services in El Paso County, members not approved for 90-120 days and proposing to use some of those grant funds to start services without requiring PAR. First 90 days is detrimental in transition and that is a huge challenge. Matt agreed that is area that we have group has talked about, the Dept knows this is an issue. ARPA and service issues are also key focus for the Dept, and they will look at it.

Matt also shared that Todd Wilson, Project Officer, with federal CMS partners is joining the meeting in September to hear from all of us and what we are doing in Colorado. The Dept would like to provide an opportunity for everyone to submit questions in advance. Responses are due on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Matt shared that Todd will not be able to address specific questions on work done in Colorado but asking about CMS work that is done nationally with other MFP state partners would be relevant. If curious about what other states are doing to address housing, services that members need to live in the community, limitations on what can or can't be provided with MFP, CMS is good resource for that information. Link to Submit Questions, Issues, and Comments: <https://forms.gle/iRZb5zWq5SyMctEe8>

- Community to Community Transitions Fact Sheet

Katy provided an overview of the community-to-community transitions fact sheet for members in the community that are experiencing a life changing transition. The education committee developed the fact sheet with the support of Janelle Poullier, which follows the same form the facility to community fact sheet follows. The community-to-community fact sheet explains what transition services are, who qualifies which are members enrolled in 1 of the 6 HCBS services for adults who need to have a qualifying life event to receive services.

Janelle Poullier explained what the qualification of life changing event is and what circumstances qualify. Examples include situation where adult child has moved away from the area and was the main source of support for member, and the member needs additional skills training to live independently. Another example is someone that has an illness or loss of a limb. The Dept is working with CMA and providers to clarify what a life changing event would be. Equally important is going back to the purpose of the program. The benefits can be utilized for up to 365 days, persons needs are identified and plans formulated for person to learn these new skills and training plan implemented so that member can require those skills in that time period. Reach out to Janelle if any questions at [janelle.poullier@state.co.us](mailto:janelle.poullier@state.co.us)

Shannon asked who to contact if they have a consumer who is in hospital for 6 weeks, barely got on HCBS services, mental issue, hospital did medical proxy and now member is back in basic sense of mentality, option is to go home or nursing facility. They have already done a lot of work with transition, if member decides



to go back home from hospital does this qualify as life changing event? Janelle is connecting with Shannon to discuss further.

Katy shared form also gives more info on how to access these services which is through the HCBS Case Manager or Case Management Agency to clarify process and what services are available. Services are for a limited time, member can access services from date services start for 365 days.

Monique asked if member is already in the community, how do you refer to Case Manager. Katy clarified they need to be on HCBS waiver to access these services.

Miriam asked if member is on a waiver and get transitioned into community, something happens and they go back into facility again, do they hold apartment/place member lives or do you have to start over again? Courtney said the voucher is active for 180 days where member can be out of the unit before they stop paying. Emphasized that there needs to be reasonable accommodation submitted so they are aware of what's going on and DOLA will review. Courtney said as long as reasonable accommodation is based on disability, it's usually approved. Monique asked if there is a limit on number of times you can transition to community. Ann said this only applies to those that have housing voucher through DOLA.

Frank asked if reasonable accommodation is 120 days or 180? Courtney said submit at 120 days so they are aware of situation to take appropriate steps.

Brad asked if the member is in an institution and end up losing income to the institution, do they get re-evaluated with income with DOLA? Ann said that anyone that is going to hospital or nursing home for extended period of time let DOLA know right away so they can re-evaluate what income is to help extend time period for their share of the rent and income adjustment.

#### 4. Yearly Agenda Planning

2:50 p.m.

- [Topics covered in 2020-2021](#)

Katy shared we are breaking the larger group into three breakout rooms to discuss what from list of topics that we discussed last year should stay, what should be rehashed and what should be readded to see in next year's agenda. We will be in breakout for 30 minutes then will come back together as a group to discuss, review 2020-2021 calendar after we get back together and vote on whether or not council members approve agenda.

- Breakout Discussions  
Breakout 1 –Anne shared the group would like to add topic to discuss how county determines eligibility and invite county liaison to the meeting, keep



housing update and a separate meeting to discuss housing modifications, rural issues, zero income members, isolation and peer mentorship support groups.

Breakout 2- Clarice shared the group discussed rural issues to include transportation, zero income and include those at risk for homelessness, suggested always having housing topic update on the agenda and added guidance on service animals to help with isolation.

Breakout 3- Neil said the group discussed adding program education on HCBS and Medicaid in general, outreach to nursing facilities, zero income and those without services, grievance process, covid lessons learned, post Program support is also helpful to talk about to keep resource connections.

- Finalizing Agenda and Council Vote

Jenny suggested adding a standing agenda item for case review to include difficult care or unique situation as we all have different areas of knowledge and can come together with support to help the individual. Frank confirmed that should be added as well as hot topic buttons. Katy shared people can submit those unique situations to the new form created. The HCPF website also has a list of all TCAs. Jennifer shared there's a CMA group that we could include for someone to reply with ideas.

Frank said housing and home health are important topics. Housing has been a problem for a long time. Priorities are solution to home health and eligibility through counties. Suggested virtual peer mentorship while member is in the nursing facility to get them used to the technology with support. Brad confirmed home care is a big issue in his county. Home care agencies can't support the needs of members.

Katy suggested eligibility topic in October, having county liaison join to explain 30-day par and answer any questions. How to get PARs in place faster, share info. Monique suggested having county liaison at discharge to help align process. Katy said housing modifications and regulations to agenda. Education on what regulations entail. Combining members without services and county eligibility at the same time. New topics include county eligibility process and housing modifications. Service animals added to isolation/peer support groups. Covid lessons learned included with grievance process. Zero income to include members experiencing homelessness and long-distance transitioning or transitions from other locations. Program education to include transitioning from other settings. Also, include program education as standing agenda on monthly basis. Post program support after 365 days and how we connect members with support in the community moved to isolation and peer mentorship discussion.



Monique asked if we could discuss billing issues. Matt said supportive of having discussions to include billing and suggested having a placeholder in agenda to listen to concerns in the community.

Shannon suggested having Colorado Disability come in and provide an overview of laws and regs for consumer services.

Katy opened it up to Vote on approving agenda, majority of group gave thumbs up to move forward.

## 5. Council Updates

3:50 p.m.

- Education Committee Report Out

Paige provided an update on the education meeting last week. In the process of taking a look at new trainings Nora shared, the committee created a suggestion copy where they can comment and going through four PowerPoints for the next month to add comments/suggestions and would love others input. Email page at [Paige@atlantiscommunity.org](mailto:Paige@atlantiscommunity.org) if interested in reviewing and providing suggestions and if interested in getting added to the invite for the next meeting. Committee requests that comments are clear, concise and professional to keep solution focused with things we can change regarding content in training or things that aren't included. Next committee meeting is Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 11am, please share comments before then.

## 6. Open Forum

4:20 p.m.

- Katy shared link to Satisfaction Survey  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/transitionsrvcs](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/transitionsrvcs)

## 7. Adjourn

4:30 p.m.

## Next Meeting September 2, 2021 – Conversation with CMS

### Submit Questions, Issues, and Comments:

<https://forms.gle/iRZb5zWq5SyMctEe8>

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities and language services for individuals whose first language is not English may be provided upon request. 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.

