



# COLORADO

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

## Minutes

### Transitions Stakeholder Advisory Council

Google Meet Weblink: [meet.google.com/gjj-gmae-xff](https://meet.google.com/gjj-gmae-xff)

Google Meet Call-in: +1 347-480-3624

PIN: 515 646 803#

May 4, 2023  
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Meghan Baker, Disability Law Colorado
- Anne Bartels, Sandata
- Monique Flemings, AHOD Services
- Brittany Wright, Atlantis
- Jennifer Giurgila, ACMI
- Fallon Gillespie, RMHS
- Kara Marang, Ombudsman
- Carla Mickelson
- Jennifer Krulewich, Focus Cares
- LaShawn Love, Love Foundation
- Tracy Martinez, Touch of Care
- Jenn Ochs
- Patricia Cook
- Neal Waite, ADRC Region 3B
- Lauren Bell, DRCOG
- Mary Baughman
- Mary Mekbib

#### 1. Welcome - 2:30 p.m.

- Approval of Minutes - Anne Bartels [Minutes approved](#)

#### 2. Open Forum - Questions or Concerns - 2:35 p.m.

#### 3. In-Reach Counseling Presentation - 2:45 p.m.

- a) Chanelle Pugh, HCPF In-Reach unit supervisor at HCPF- shared implementation plan and feedback state received from 2022 DOJ finding and recommended plans for improvements to HCBS which include
  - Providing information to prevent unnecessary institutionalization

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



- Providing effective transition services
  - Expanding access to Colorado’s Community Based services system
  - Increasing access to integrated community-based housing opportunities.
- b) Progress to Date:
- Don’t have agreement with DOJ yet, negotiations are in process with hopes of agreement this summer
  - Last fall stakeholders informed on BA-07 budget request, group and individual In-Reach to do conducted bi-annually, individual In-Reach is not expected to be implemented until 2024 which coincides with current Case Management Agency timelines. Andrea shared link to [Funding Request FY 2023-2-24 Budget Cycle](#)
- c) The purpose of Group In-Reach is to educate individuals living in nursing facility and natural support about community-based living options, waiver and supports that will take place over next 12-16 months. HCPF internal team will complete the research.
- d) Group in Reach Meeting format:
- In person Group setting
  - Held in Nursing Facilities
  - Visual Presentation with handouts
  - After presentation provide support with making referrals
- e) Information to be shared:
- Qualifications for state program
  - Services and supports
  - Waiver Program
  - Transition Services process
  - Regional Contacts
- f) Transition Coordination Specific Details
- Will attempt to get direct referrals to TC as meet with individuals
  - In-Reach may result in increase in referrals
- g) Jenny- Is there discussion of removing Options Counselors from the process? Chanelle said not at this time, in the DOJ findings one of the issues was time it takes to transition individuals to the community to include direct referrals, support from HCPF as far as escalations are concerned.
- h) Amy Dearmore -This program sounds great! How are you responding to CMAs voicing concerns about an increase in referrals?
- Chanelle said met with CMA’s earlier today and they haven’t voiced those concerns yet. Same presentation earlier and that didn’t not come up but will manage that as it comes.
- i) Lisa asked how everyone feels about increased referrals.



- Jenny said there has been a collective feeling of not getting amount of referrals they are requesting so excited about potential for referrals to increase.
- j) Lisa- Also looking to increase provider support, housing support and work to build capacity in that element.
- k) Renee- With regards to the timeline, how will they prioritize nursing facilities that have Medicaid members.
  - Chanelle confirmed its 12-16 months to see nursing facilities that serve Medicaid members. Would love for group to share regions, areas/ cities they should go to first. The current plan is to get further away areas during summertime. Also want to prioritize areas that need more education or support. Confirmed individual in reach will start in 2024 and CMA will do that once contracts are renewed.
- l) V Geissinger. You mention response to the housing part of the DOJ findings. What is that response?
  - Chanelle -the agreement is not signed yet, should be signed by this summer. Ann with DOLA said DOLA put in for additional vouchers in the long bill and hope to increase resources for voucher program. similar to HCPF BA-07 budget request. Other ideas in draft agreement but until finalized unable to confirm. A lot of housing legislation is moving through the process this year.
- m) Jenny- starting with outreach at skilled nursing facilities next summer, is there discussion about efforts starting prior to that?
  - Matt- individual counseling would begin in 2024 but intention is to begin outreach at larger scale is coming in next couple of months. All option counseling options still exist, looking to streamline referrals and google form still best way to do it.
- n) Jennifer tried to fill out the survey but there is not an option to fill out as consumer, only as an agency. Lisa/Matt confirmed will add that option.
- o) Maria asked about people that say they are interested but don't do a referral right away. Lisa said they can put in referral through SW/google forms and automatically will go to regions options counselor.
- p) GV -Rurality is always going to concern with the group in-reach. Lisa said they have plan to specifically engage in rural areas. Matt – initial phase is with 235 facilities, and they will have presence with each of them and ongoing support defined after that.
- q) April asked if we should do outreach to facilities or hold off on it. Lisa confirmed still do outreach and relationship building like they have been doing. Start working alongside each other to tackle outreach. Lisa confirmed allowed to do outreach in person now.



- r) Shannon- when In-Reach starts to facilities in rural areas, there's 3 facilities she goes to as OC and is the only one in the area. Lisa asked if it would be beneficial to share the roadshow with options counselors so they know the plan so they can be prepared. Consensus that would be great. |
- s) Matt- Keep in mind that PHE will end on 5/11 and with it the program flexibilities
- t) Carla- will In-Reach include hospitals where people have been discharged from nursing home and aren't able to get back to any nursing homes because of problems in the past. For individuals at risk of homelessness – Is that a possibility?
  - o Matt confirmed hospitals are a priority and they know this is an issue and they are looking at strategy. In reach team priority is to start with nursing facilities and look at strategy to build out to other areas to support in reach efforts. Vouchers are available only for managers that are part of the transition program. In-Reach is providing education and awareness of transition and they will refer to TCA.
- u) Jenny, asked about the survey, looks like planning conversation is around involving another entity.
  - o Chanelle confirmed over next year in reach team with HCPF will do group meetings and it will coincide with contracts and budget request just submitted. In the future, there could be a possibility of other agencies taking on outreach.
- v) Shannon- At some point will there be In-Reach to long term swing beds.
  - o Chanelle said they haven't looked at other settings yet as they are focusing on nursing facilities that was DOJ's main concern. Eventually will look at other agencies/facilities. Plan to have nursing facility schedule in July, they are happy to share with the group if they would like to attend and have that support. Will share with Lisa to pass on to group.
- w) Lauren asked about regional contacts and intermediate care facilities.
  - o Chanelle suggested including that in google survey form. There's documentation that will go to all Medicaid entities that serve individuals.
- x) Andrea Hettich – HCPF: We have attached a survey to collect additional information regarding Group In-Reach, please complete by 05/31. We will also be sending the [Survey](#) out via email after the meeting today.
- y) Chanelle Pugh shared email: [chanelle.pugh@state.co.us](mailto:chanelle.pugh@state.co.us)

#### **4. Open Forum on Wins and Challenges - 3:30 p.m.**

- a) Lisa asked the group if seeing an uptick in referrals, what is the pulse, status quo. Is there a trend in higher transitions in summer or colder months



- Maria has seen a decrease in referrals, but it's been stable. They are part of the Aloft program.
  - Carla, Coalition for the Homeless, took a bunch of transfers for Aloft closing. Excited about collaboration and getting people connected to HCBS services and to use the hotel for those that fall through the cracks. Sharing info with everyone and how group can utilize services. Park Avenue is full and increase in services, expects to be busy continuously.
- b) Lauren, DRCOG Transitions team- worked with Nora and HCPF to change the process because there are now 17 TCA's. They used to rotate through the list to hand out referrals. Now if TCA 1-10 get referral, they go to bottom of the list and others go to top to keep referrals steadier. There has been a decline in referrals although outreach has increased, worked through MDS data and ready to go when March/April data comes out. Hoping the new process that was started May 1<sup>st</sup> will result in more steady referrals.
- c) Lisa shared [region contact spreadsheet list](#)
- d) Maria asked for Martha Mason's PowerPoint shared during the March meeting. Lisa will share.
- e) Lisa – What topics group would like to cover or revisit?
- Jenny suggested updates on DOJ finding and Care and Case Management System.
  - Renee- interested in demonstration on program application after submitted it.
  - Becca- training update on PASSR process.

## 5. Next Steps and Topic for Next Month - 4 to 4:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting June 1, 2023**  
**Topic: TBD**

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

<https://forms.gle/iRZb5zWq5SyMctEe8>

or email [Lisa.B.Smith@state.co.us](mailto:Lisa.B.Smith@state.co.us)

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