

DS State Program Standing Committee (SPSC)

December 15, 2022

Meeting Held Virtually on ZoomGov

Attendees

Committee Members: Max Marrows, Priscilla Connolly, Bethany Drum, Ed Place, Karen Price, Barb Prine, Cheryl Thrall, Connie Woodberry and Susan Yuan. Barbara Lee joined for Executive Session

Guests: Elise Haydon, Katrina D, Chuck M, Jen Hayes, Shannon L, Kirsten Murphy, Marie Lallier, Susan Aranoff, Jess Moore, Jen Hayes

State Employees: June Bascom, Jennifer Garabedian, Laura Siegel, Jessica Bernard

Roll Call and Review Agenda

A roll call was completed, and the meeting agenda was reviewed

November minutes were reviewed and a motion to accept by Priscilla Connolly was made and Cheryl Thrall seconded the motion to approve

Director's Updates

SOCP and updates to regulations "rules". We are still on track with the SOCP for January 2023. Commissioner White has reviewed the draft plan with Jennifer

We received a lot of valuable feedback which we have incorporated into the "rules" We have submitted the "rules" to Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) and hoping it will be presented on the 12/29 schedule but that has not been confirmed. It will be posted to DAIL and DDSD division website along with a summary of how it goes thru the legislation process.

June has been working on our Annual and Legislative report. It will be 2 different reports for fiscal year 2022. The legislative report is a smaller report. Reports will be available in February. A legislative request to change the time of the Annual report to February has been made since the data isn't always available for us to complete the Annual report for January.

CMS assurances – still learning more about this

At the time of this meeting, the Governor's recommendation for provider rate increases was not available.

There was a discussion regarding the investigation that was held at UVS. Complete details can be found at the below link.

Medicaid Fraud and Resident Abuse Unit (MFRAU)

<https://ago.vermont.gov/medicaid-fraud-residential-abuse-unit/>

Cheryl Thrall talked about the various trainings she is doing at Lincoln Street as well as working with Julie at Families First.

- Training Service Coordinators – teaching them critical thinking
- Training self-advocates on standing up for themselves

Julie developed a list that make people vulnerable

- Difficulty with communication
- Isolation – not active in programs
- Fragile family situations, including APS reports
- Personal Care needs
- New home or respite providers
- No natural supports
- A co-occurring mental health disorder

Payment Reform

2023 – processing of the 500 sample from June, working on how many levels of supports that VT will need. The 2nd edition of SIS-A is coming out in March 2023.

We don't anticipate there will be much difference between the 2 editions. We do know there is not a section for Communication Support needs, but we are working on bringing a question in to cover that.

By end of calendar year of 2023, we will be drafting a payment model – adding context and will bring Dawn Danner and Bill Ashe into this piece.

There will be Engagement sessions with PCG in January and February. A flyer will be coming out in January with more details.

Conflict Free Case Management

The Consultant has started. Jeff Nunemaker is the lead for DDSD. We can have Jeff come and speak more specifically as well as Dylan Frazer in 2023.

The Consultant has been gathering information related to stakeholders and contact information. The State expects that stakeholders will be contacted soon about this work.

Workforce Data

- Looking for a written report from AHS on how things are going
- Get data quarterly and monthly reports from DAIL
- Overall concerns that this committee is not getting the updates needed
- Ask for more money thru legislature

Things Discussed:

Improve wages

Improve benefits

AHS steps – workforce recommendations

Retention payments have been made available thru the CBA

Rate increase to the providers, helping to recruit.

DAIL sponsored a team through the Vermont Certified Public Manager Course to explore this question. Angela Smith Deng and Jessica Bernard sponsored this, and the report was finalized as part of the group's April 2022 coursework. This included a survey of direct care providers and focus group input. Need to work with DAIL to explore recommendations in this report.

Other Updates (GMSA, VCP, DD Council)

VCP – legislative advocacy and workforce crisis is top priority

GMSA – gave overview on the Heartbeet site visit

The meeting adjourned and moved into Executive Session