

DS State Program Standing Committee (SPSC)

August 18, 2022

Meeting Held Virtually on Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Committee Members: Max Barrows, Bethany Drum, Ed Place, Karen Price, David Ballou, Priscilla Connolly, Barbara Lee, Chad Cleverly, Connie Woodberry, Dawn Danner, Cheryl Thrall

Guests: Rachel Seelig, Jess Moore, Marie Lallier, Chuck Medick, Ashleigh Goldberg, Colette Wilson, Kirsten Murphy, Susan Aranoff, Karen Topper, Jessica Stehle, Kara Artus

State Employees: Clare McFadden, Laura Siegel, Jennifer Garabedian, June Bascom, Hilary Conant, Lisa Parro, Jessica Bernard, Jeff Nunemaker

Roll Call and Review Agenda

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

Review of the July minutes

Chad made a motion at last month's meeting to vote but could not vote due to lack members.

A motion was made to amend the meeting minutes to indicate that Chad made that statement at last month's meeting

Bethany made a motion and David Ballou seconded it to approve the July minutes with the voting statement by Chad.

Kirsten Murphy

The Global Commitment Waiver is a federal plan. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS negotiates with the State every 5 years about how Medicaid money is spent. The plan describes how the state will use the money for the next five years. One thing that goes into the plan are “special conditions”.

CMS told the state that by September 30th, the state must choose Medicaid Quality metrics that CMS will use to look at the quality of home and community based services. Metrics are the way things are measured, tested, or examined. The state will track and measure quality and report out to CMS

Kirsten feels that this committee needs to have some say on what these measures would be and expressed concerns that there is not a stakeholder process not put in place for this process. She would like SPSC to provide input about what measures should be included. CMS has written a lot of guidance about what the choices are regarding the metrics that can be chosen. Some of those are the NCI (National Core Indicators) which have been used in the past, but the state is not using them now. In moving forward, the state may be interested in using again. DVHA is taking the lead in deciding what those metrics ought to be. Kirsten said we should ask DVHA to come and talk with the committee about this.

DDSD has had preliminary conversations with DVHA and AHS Central Office regarding this. We are early in the process and it takes some time to work through what is being asked of us, to determine what information is collected, and how it may all align and come together. Jennifer Garabedian suggested bringing a draft of the plan to the group next month so people can get a sense of where we are at.

Chad asked if HCBS included home situations for example shared living providers? Jennifer replied Yes

Connie asked if the committee could send input/ideas to the DDSD. Jennifer said sure. Please send to Jennifer G.

SOCP - Clare

We are creating the next version of the System of Care Plan (SOCP). Forums have been held on specific topics that stakeholders have asked for us to focus on and includes housing, paying parents and autism services. The housing forums are complete, but conversation will continue. The other 2 forums are paying parents and autism services.

DDSD is holding 4 regional general input forums and input on any area of the SOCP is welcomed.

The SOCP is a guiding document that explains how the state uses money from legislature to provide services to individuals and families. It includes what services we provide, how much money goes into those programs, how are services accessed and a series of rules about how the money is used.

DDSD asked the SPSC group a variety of questions and will take and use their feedback as we move forward with the SOCP.

Next steps in updating the SOCP

Aside from the input forums, DDSD has sent a survey out. DDSD has also been gathering input from an email that was set- to receive input and comments about the 2022 SOCP update. (ahs.daiiddsdsocpregulations@vermont.gov)

Flyer was sent out via e-mail and hard copy will go in the mail through Employer Reports and Employee payments from ARIS.

DDSD will present draft of the SOCP at our October meeting. The target date to submit I finalized SOCP is January 1, 2023.

Jennifer Garabedian provided an update on the 2023 legislative session. The state is bringing forward an initiative that would change the due date of the annual report from January 15th to February 15th

CMS will be joining us for our September meeting along with Shawn Skaflestad, AHS Quality Management and Chris O’Neill, DDSD Quality Management Team Leader to discuss the settings rule.

Discussed CMS Quality Assurances again. Talked about the process and having information sent to stakeholders as soon as possible. People can send input about what they think is important to measure and how to Jennifer (jennifer.garabedian@vermont.gov).

The meeting adjourned and went into Executive Session

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