

DS State Program Standing Committee (SPSC)

July 20, 2023

Meeting held virtually by ZOOMGov

Attendees

Committee Members: Max Barrows, David Ballou, Barbara Lee, Ed Place, Barb Prine, Chad Cleverly, Collins Twing, Dawn Danner, Cheryl Thrall, Susan Yuan, and Connie Woodberry

State Employees: Jennifer Garabedian, Jessica Benard, Jessica Nadeau, Chris O’Neill, Jeff Nunemaker, Hilary Conant, Carolyn Bowen, Kirsten Murphy, Susan Aranoff

Guests: Gloria Quinn, Ellen Malone, Laurie Richardson, Heidi Gee, Katrina D, Michael Kasper, Jess Moore, Jessica Stehle, Stephen Rauh, Collette Wilson, Jen Hayes, Judith Jackson, Elise Haydon, Kara Artus

Roll Call and Review of Agenda and minutes –

June minutes were reviewed. Chad Cleverly made a motion to approve the June minutes and David Ballou seconded the motion.

UVS re-designation

Jessica Nadeau introduced UVS staff. Gloria Quinn, Stephen Rauh, Ellen Malone, Laurie Richardson, Heidi Gee, Susan Yuan member of UVS Board

UVS meets standards in all Administrative sections.

Corporate Status

Governance

Agency Organization and Administration

Data and Information

Fiscal Management

Personnel Practices

Training

Accessibility

Confidentiality

Under DS Section

4.4 standards surveys reviewed families as being involved and informed and satisfied with the variety of services offered

4.7 comprehensive service working with DAIL on a crisis bed. Great collaboration with other community partners

Administrative Rule 4.9 Consumer Support, Treatment and Records, UVS does not meet the standard.

ISA's did not meet guidelines for timeliness/signatures and were found to need improvement in outcome and support strategy development. The agency was provided feedback regarding the need to ensure Behavior Support Plans were captured correctly in the documentation process and to look at their use of the shared support plan. UVS has provided 2 ISA trainings with the QM Reviewer and is noted for their immediate attention to improvement in this area and are moving in the right direction.

Quality Improvement plan – continued improvement at the agency and involves staff about what kind of trainings they want to have.

Clarity and outcomes of the ISA is a compliance issue not a quality. It's meeting CMS criteria.

Quality of services are good it's the paper piece. Data collection issue with ISA's outcomes to reflect the quality of services being provided. Turnover of staff and virtual atmosphere due to pandemic has been a piece of this as well. Gloria stated she's proud of everyone.

Quality Initiatives

- VCIN – crisis network added a bed
- Collaboratively sharing beds with other partners
- Housing initiatives underway, took 11 people from Francis Foundation
- self-advocacy groups reconveyed
- Lifelong learning groups, strengthened nursing
- UVS learning community platform went online
- Maintain 6% staffing

Payment Reform

2023 accomplishments

- Added a new supplemental question to the SIS-A about communication support needs
- Started using the 2nd Edition of the SIS-A
- Continue to hold quarterly SIS-A Engagement Sessions
- Analyzed the SIS-A sample collected from July 2021 through August 2022
- Asked for feedback to choose the number of levels of support

https://ddsd.vermont.gov/sites/ddsd/files/documents/DDSD_SISA_Supplemental_Questions_Final_2023.pdf

2023 Goals

- Comparing the first and second editions of the SIS-A to make sure they are similar
- Language – what to call levels of support, how to describe range of needs different people have
- Draft a context document and process to support the person-centered planning process

What is coming soon

- Conduct a SIS-A validation study in September
 - 150 consumer records reviewed – this will be a mix of residential settings, spectrum of support needs and services from all regions of the state
 - Contractor at Burns & Associates will lead the review
 - State staff and DS service providers will participate in the review – DS providers will only look at records for people their agency serves due to privacy laws
 - Unable to include individuals or families due to privacy laws
- Draft a payment model
 - Need to develop the levels of support, context documents and compare 1st and 2nd editions of SIS-A before work can begin with contractors to create the budget framework and present to stakeholders

The process must be uniformed across the agencies

<https://ddsd.vermont.gov/project-initiatives/dds-payment-reform>

Access Rules

New set of regulations from CMS. Comment period ended 2 weeks ago. Different from HCBS Settings Rule. The HCBS Settings Rule does not address all issues related to HCBS, including access to services, requirements for systems related to health and safety, or oversight. Get access to service and services are of high quality

Under the proposed Access Rule:

Growing the Direct Care Workforce and Transparency in Payment Rates

- 80% Medicaid compensation (rate) for direct care workers. Not clear if this is for all services.
- Requires states to establish an advisory group to advise and consult on fee-for services rates paid for personal care, home health aide and homemaker services. (Our HCBS are paid as fee-for-services)

Better oversight with HCBS waitlist

- States must report whether people can access services across HCBS once the services are approved. People have been approved for services but not getting them.

Strengthen Person center planning

- Reassessment of need is completed at least once a year for people enrolled in HCBS programs
- Must establish and manage an electronic incident management system
- Must establish and maintain a grievance process for people receiving HCBS in fee-for-service plans

EVV (Electronic Visit Verification)

A telephone and computer-based system that verifies when services are provided to Medicaid members who get certain Home & Community Based Services (HCBS).

This is a requirement of a federal law called the 21st Century CURES Act. All states must have EVV systems for workers who provide certain in-home Medicaid services.

Purpose of EVV is to ensure:

- Correct services are provided at the right location
- Services are recorded accurately
- Services not provided are not submitted for payment
- Compliance with the 21st Century Cures Act

Personal Care services must use EVV by January 2, 2021.

Home Health Services will have to use EVV by January 1, 2023

Below are some resources

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/sites/dvha/files/documents/Initiatives/evv-faq.pdf#:~:text=Electronic%20Visit%20Verification%20%28EVV%29%20is%20a%20telephone%20and,providing%20the%20service.%20the%20date%20of%20the%20service.>

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/initiatives/electronic-visit-verification>

This has been a bit helpful to some people we work with at Transition II:

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/initiatives/electronic-visit-verification>

We will keep talking about this at future meetings.

General Updates

GMSA

- Created a 2-page handout on no boil order related to flood last week for Montpelier
- working on a grant with DD Council

DD Council

- Annual conference in Florida. Taking 2 family members

VCP

- Residency agreement – putting it plain language - developing a template

We will not be having the August SPSC meeting in-person because the Waterbury State Office Complex does not have Security due to the flooding last week.

The meeting adjourned.