

**MINUTES
NEW LTC DISTRICT
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS PLANNING MEETING
July 20, 2009**

Present: Robin Elsner, Bob Fraik, (Marinette County); Mike Reimer, Craig Johnson, Loretta Shellman, Lois Trever (Oconto County); Tom Eggebrecht, Diane Pivonka, Jean O’Leary (Brown County); Rick Kane, Kim Wolfmeyer, Barbara Larson-Herber, John Gallagher, (Shawano County); Bill Kelsey, Janice Swoboda, Jim Abrahamsen (Kewaunee County); Joe Krebsbach, Roger Tepe, Ben Meyer, Mark Moeller (Door County), Barb Nelson, Theodore Warrington, Beverly Muehlius, Tony Waupochnik, (Menominee County); and Mary Kennedy (Project Manager)

Guest: Kathleen Luedtke, State Office of Family Care Expansion
608-276-4896, Kathleen.Luedtke@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

No changes or additions

Minutes of June 1, 2009 Meeting

No changes or additions

Presentation by Kathleen Luedtke from the Wisconsin Office of Family Care Expansion

Kathleen discussed the funding for Family Care in the recently passed State budget for Family Care. As the State approves counties to initiate Family Care, they consider the fact that some counties current Medicaid expenses exceed the costs under Family Care while others do not.

The State was allowed to add a number of new employees and contracted positions. Positions include some in the ADRC area (including one to work with Tribes), a managed care quality specialists, specialists in particular clinical areas and contract administrators. There is funding to contract for financial specialists especially in the managed care actuarial area.

There was discussion of the two month start up funding for ADRCs and the ability to spread the funding out over three or four months with some counties possibly having received additional funding for an earlier start-up.

Kathleen discussed the difference between the Family Care benefit and the combined Medicaid/Medicare Partnership benefit, which also includes acute and primary care and Part D.

Kathleen explained that there have been two evaluations of Family Care. Both showed positive outcomes for consumers and reduced costs. One factor leading to good consumer outcomes has been the use of a combined nurse/social worker care management team and the ability to bring in specialists such as respiratory or infectious disease specialist etc. The 2005 evaluation showed savings in Medicaid costs, per person, of \$452 per month. Some saving are for services not in the Family Care benefit such as hospital costs but there were also savings in Family Care services such as nursing home care. Savings are also achieved by “bringing care under management” which involves basing care plans on the consumer’s desired outcomes and their needs as well as improved service purchasing arrangements. Savings are achieved through not overusing congregate care, paying living arrangements based on the person’s acuity (as is happening now with nursing homes), buying in bulk and increasing the number of providers to encourage competition.

Kathleen stated that the MCOs who are expanding into additional counties are currently losing funding partly because the State has not had enough staff to properly train them in bringing care under management. Kathleen was asked whether higher costs could result in the State changing the Functional Screen to tighten eligibility. Kathleen said that would require legislative change. Kathleen will share the video of the new State provided care management training when it is available.

Kathleen explained the IRIS, self-directed care option. The numbers of people choosing this option exceeded state expectations. The IRIS, self-directed care option is not administered by the Family Care agency but by two statewide contracted providers. There is also an opportunity within Family Care for a person to self-direct their services but the care management team remains available for backup.

Counties questioned the new 36-month time frame for enrolling people on the Wait List. How Family Care transition in counties with no waiting lists (Kewaunee, Menominee and Florence) would be handled was discussed. It will not be acceptable in counties with no waiting lists to have to put people on wait lists when Family Care starts. Kathleen said that Tom Lawless and Judith Frey would make that decision. Counties also raised concerns about the change in the middle of the process from 24 to 36 months to serve the Wait List and fears that it might go to 48 months during their implementation.

Kathleen and Janice Smith will be meeting separately with Florence, Marinette, Door and Kewaunee Counties regarding ADRC development.

Update on State Grant Status and Hiring Process for Planning Directors

Barb Larson-Herber reported that Shawano County has received the contract to for the grant. Barb reviewed the Hiring Process for the Planning Director developed by the Search and Screen Committee. The Search and Screen Committee will review the application on August 4, 2009 and conduct phone interview on August 11 and 12th. Interviews with the Steering Committee will be August 19, 2009. Jean O'Leary from Brown County may replace Tom Eggebrecht on the Search and Screen Committee.

Update on "white" county interest in Northeastern Long Term Care District

Mary Kennedy contacted the "white" counties to fill them in on the status of the NEW District planning. Most of them are looking toward the Central Wisconsin Cares District because of proximity and other connections. Vilas DSS and Taylor Human Service Department asked to be sent some background materials on the NEW District. Only Florence County mentioned sitting in on the NEW meetings at this time. Mary informed the white counties that when the NEW District approaches the point where they can no longer consider additional partners, they would give prior notice to the white counties.

Update on Tribal involvement in Northeastern Long Term Care District

Mary Kennedy talked with Great Lakes Intertribal Council. Wendall Holt indicated the Tribes expect to receive Federal approval of the 100% Federal funding of their Waiver programs. The Oneida Tribe indicated the Tribes asked for a meeting in Madison the end of July and they would delay meeting with the NEW group until that meeting. ***Note:** Kathleen followed up to report that, at this time, neither the Administrator's office nor Tribal Affairs is aware of the meeting.*

Other Updates

The group discussed the delayed timing of the state takeover of 1-2 bed adult family home certification. ***Note:** Kathleen followed up to report that Fredi Bove confirms the state will be continuing with the status quo until an administrative rule can be promulgated that gives the Bureau of Quality Assurance the authority to carry out the certification (about 12 months). Once the rule is in effect, the state certification will cover all existing Family Care sites and will start in each new Family Care County as it goes to Family Care.*

The Steering Committee is recommended that a contract with Mark Fontanna be developed to complete the NEW web site for a cost of \$2000. It will be completed within six weeks of the contract. Bill Kelsey and Mary Kennedy will work with him on the development. The Elected Officials also concurred that Shawano Department of Community Programs should contract with Mary Kennedy until such time as the full time Planning Director is hired and Project Manager services transitioned to her or him.

The timeline for the NEW District's work will be discussed with the Directors/managers at their next meeting and then shared with Elected Officials.

Next Meeting: August 31, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Brown County Human Services.

