

Meeting Notes

Community Living Advisory Group Monday, November 25, 2013 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm KRMA-TV –1089 Bannock Street, Denver

*All reference documents can be found on the <u>Community Living Advisory Group Web Page</u>.

Name of Member	Present	Absent
Senator Betty Boyd		X
Senator Irene Aguilar		X
Senator John Kefalas	X (phone)	
Representative Cheri Gerou	\(\frac{1}{2}\)	Х
Carol Meredith	X	
Craig Ammermann		Х
David Ervin	X (phone)	
Don Rosier		Χ
Dustin Dodson	X (phone)	
Gavin Attwood		Х
George DelGrosso		Х
Grant Jackson	X (phone)	
Guy Dutra-Silveira	X	
Ian Engle	X (phone)	
Jack Hilbert	Rep by Perry Boydstun	
Jayla Sanchez Warren	X	
Jean Hammes	X	
Jose Torres	X	
Katherine Carol	X	
Keith Percy	Rep by Tim Wheat (phone)	
Linda Worrell		Χ
Liz Fuselier		Χ
Marijo Rymer	X	
Mark Emery		X
Melody Wright		X
Pat Coyle		Χ
Randy Kuykendall	X (phone)	
Renee Boyes Walbert	X	
Sam Murillo	X	
Shelley Hitt		X

Suzanne Brennan	X	
Tim Markham		Х
Viki Manley	X (phone)	
Vivian Stovall	X	

I. Welcome, Agenda, Review, and Introductions:

Lisa Carlson noted that a synopsis of the October 2013 Community Living Advisory Group (Advisory Group) retreat was just sent out. Please familiarize yourselves with the synopsis, recognizing that it is a working draft.

Lorez Meinhold from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), who has been working with the Advisory Group, announced that she is leaving HCPF next month to take advantage of a new opportunity. She is working with her office to ensure that her departure does not disrupt the Advisory Group's process.

Vivian Stovall said that she also will be taking a new position, and Ruth Long will replace her on the Advisory Group. Vivian will serve as Ruth's back up for the Advisory Group.

II. Ground Rule review and agreement:

One person should talk at a time. Refrain from making personal or institutional attacks, and keep comments both concise and to-the-point. Decisions will based on the group's consensus, with a fallback standard of approval by 70% of those present. Since many of the group's members are not present today, any significant decisions will be saved for an occasion when more members are present.

III. Area Agencies on Aging Role in Advisory Group:

Jean Hammes, Guy Dutra-Silveira, and Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the directors of the area agencies on aging (AAA) at a recent meeting expressed concern about how the AAAs can meaningfully contribute to the Advisory Group's recommendations. The AAAs would like an opportunity to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting. In particular, they would like to address the issues of services for the non-Medicaid population, how those services can also affect the Medicaid population, and possibilities for greater financial integration. It was suggested that the AAAs make their presentation during the January Advisory Group meeting. Lisa noted that this presentation would dovetail with a planned presentation by the entry point subcommittee in December.

IV. Retreat Synopsis of Possible Concrete Actions:

Please refer to the document titled "Community Living Advisory Group – October 2013 Retreat Synopsis and Subcommittee Recommendations."

As Lisa and Lorez explained, the synopsis document is a synthesis of the table notes from the October 2013 retreat. The goal of the synopsis is to capture actionable items from the retreat that can serve as the core concepts of the report due next September. The strategies discussed at the retreat are juxtaposed in the synopsis with subcommittee recommendations, which appear in boxes. (As a side note about subcommittees, Lisa noted that the workforce subcommittee is about to launch, with two co-chairs and about twenty participants; it plans to hold its first meeting on December 11, 2013.) The final page of the synopsis shows where the specific categories originated, with a goal of providing a holistic picture.

Lorez noted that the items in the "other" category on page 3 of the synopsis (Nurse Practice Act (NPA); employment strategies; transportation) are not necessarily items for the Advisory Group to directly take on or implement, but they appear in the synopsis because they represent connections that are important to recognize. However, resolution of these issues would require involving people not part of the Advisory Group process. The Advisory Group needs to focus on digging deeper on the other recommendations that it and the subcommittees are focusing on.

This synopsis has been shared with several retreat participants already to check that it accurately reflects discussions at the retreat. Lisa and Lorez encouraged the members to review the synopsis, make sure it represents movement in the right direction, consider which areas can be prioritized, ensure that aging and disabled perspectives are appropriately included, and raise issues that may merit more information or closer examination by one of the subcommittees. The Advisory Group should develop a consensus on the synopsis, which will serve as the framework for developing the Advisory Group's recommendations.

Advisory Group comments:

- Employment strategies are important to address because employment opportunities for people with disabilities are a key to resolving other issues, such as transportation-related challenges.
- Even if the Advisory Group does not make detailed recommendations on the NPA, employment, and transportation, the group can help ensure these issues are addressed by making recommendations on relevant follow-up steps.
- In a similar vein, the Advisory Group could help to effect change on related issues, including housing and zoning issues, by formally voicing support for the efforts of other groups working on those issues.
- There are various other groups undertaking efforts directly and indirectly related to the Advisory Group's efforts, and we may not know about all of these groups.
- Two members expressed the view that the regulatory subcommittee should address the NPA, because the NPA issue is bound up with the other long-term care issues Advisory Group is working on. David Ervin said that the subcommittee would do so, though not specifically as its starting point. It was noted that political and legal issues relating to the NPA are quite complicated.

- Transportation and housing issues may also pose difficult political challenges at the local level.
- It was emphasized that the Advisory Group must transparently develop guiding principles that serve as the lens through which the group considers its recommendations. Lorez noted that the Office of Community Living's vision is reprinted on the back of the meeting agenda, and the group should ensure that its work is advancing that vision.
- The importance of developing and implementing safeguards to ensure quality outcomes was also stressed.
- The importance of the Advisory Group becoming involved in implementing its recommendations was emphasized.
- The Advisory Group could consider what ideas and low-hanging fruit can be addressed quickly. It may be valuable to take some actions soon to preserve the trust that has been built with the community and to show the Advisory Group's commitment, as well as for the sake of all those involved in this effort.
- It was noted that initiating implementation efforts before finalizing plans or recommendations is an approach in line with cutting-edge project management strategies.
- Suzanne Brennan noted that from HCPF's perspective, it is important to perform reality checks regarding implementation, including the time needed for implementation and how implementation can be financially sound.

V. Public Comment:

 A family caregiver who has been caring for her parents for ten years urged the Advisory Group to act with a sense of urgency.

VI. Waiver Simplification Recommendations:

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation titled "Waiver Simplification Concept Paper Overview."

Tim Cortez delivered a presentation about the wavier simplification concept paper. Mission Analytics was hired to prepare this paper over the past year, with input from the waiver simplification subcommittee and the Community Living Advisory Group. HCPF planned to send the paper to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 25. Tim previously informed the Advisory Group about the concept paper, and this follow-up presentation is designed to review the paper's status and address next steps.

As a brief summary of the concept paper, Colorado has 12 waivers, which too often pose access issues. For instance, clients face a fragmented service array, and clients may be forced into a specific waiver program even though they might benefit from services in another waiver. In addition, some waivers have long waiting lists. The goals

underlying waiver simplification include expanding people's choices to obtain services that meet their needs and building a more person-centered system, while also achieving efficiencies.

The concept paper is not a commitment on the part of HCPF as to how to move forward, nor is it binding in any sense. Instead, it is the mechanism for HCPF to begin a conversation with CMS about our ideas and how to structure a system that will work better for consumers and families. CMS can respond to our ideas and identify limitations to address, as well as additional options and authorities.

Several other states, including Michigan and Wisconsin, have engaged in similar processes. Using a concept paper led to quicker progress in such states. Lorez noted, however, that Colorado has more waivers than the other states who have undertaken waiver simplification efforts.

It is hard to predict how long it will take for CMS to respond to the concept paper—perhaps around ninety days. After CMS responds, Mission Analytics will develop an implementation plan. There will be ongoing opportunities for stakeholder engagement and responding to stakeholder feedback in this multi-year process.

Advisory Group comments:

- It was suggested that HCPF follow up on the previously mentioned idea of arranging a conference call between CMS and the Advisory Group, and Tim said he would do so.
- Via the webinar, Senator Kefalas complimented the waiver simplification efforts and asked about limitations on combining the DD and CMHS waivers. Tim responded that a federal rule precludes such a combination, though there is some possibility of that changing in the future.
- A concern was raised about whether use of the term "physical" in relation to disabilities is too constricting.
- A member asked whether a Medicaid buy-in program could be implemented for seniors. Tim answered that there are federal buy-in restrictions for adults relating to work and age, so to explore this possibility would require implementing a demonstration program.
- It is important to ensure the waiver process will be flexible enough to support the management of transitions.

VII. Next meeting agenda:

The entry point subcommittee is scheduled to present at the next Advisory Group meeting.

VIII. Public comment:

- A concern was expressed about the possibility of HCPF and CMS sharing private documents regarding waiver simplification. Lorez responded that HCPF is committed to ensuring that nothing will be private in this process. She noted that members of the public are free to submit comments to CMS, but she requested that any such comments also be shared with Marijo Rymer and Tim Cortez.
- A question was raised as to the effect of the anticipated expiration of the Maintenance of Effort eligibility requirements. Tim responded that he does not believe the expiration will affect the efforts addressed above.
- An attendee asked whether waiver simplification efforts may affect targeting criteria for the waiver for persons who are elderly, blind, and disabled, so that people with dementia could access the waiver. Tim said that this issue remains open for discussion.
- It was noted that another benefit of waiver simplification will be a reduced administrative burden for providers.

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

December 16, 2013, 1 pm – 4 pm, KRMA-TV