



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

MINUTES COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL

September 18, 2017
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Phone number: 877-820-7831
Access code: 511120#

1. Roll Call

Phone: Shannon Secrest, Valerie Baker-Easley, Kady Harrington, Carol Meredith, Dawn Russell, Josh Winkler, Christiano Sosa, Mary Colecchi, Pat Cook, Penny Cook, Mallory Cyr, Marijo Rymer

Room: Sarah Hoerle, Rhyann Lubitz, David Bolin, Tim Thornton

2. Review of August Notes

Sarah asked the group to review the August notes and determine if there were any changes needed. No changes were noted and the August notes were approved. Sarah will remove Draft from the document and post to the Community First Choice website.

3. Brief Updates

Sarah discussed the reorganization of the Office of Community Living with the council. Through the Executive Order in 2012, the Governor created the Office of Community Living to better align services and supports so that families and clients do not have to navigate complicated and fragmented systems. The time has come for OCL to restructure our internal operations to better support the policy goals set forth by the community we service. The department believes that the restructure will position the Office to fully implement the recommendations of the Community Living Advisory Group by:

- Streamlining care coordination and entry point functions across the long-term care system
- Improve the array of services available under all HCBS programs to include expansion of self-direction options;
- Improve provider capacity and oversight;
- Create operational efficiencies and excellence



- Improve communication and engagement with stakeholders

The Office will be divided up into the following four “buckets”:

- One Division will focus on our work and oversight of entry point, assessment, and case management functions. This Division will be led by Jennifer Martinez.
- Another Division will serve the role of guiding policy, strategy, system redesign and internal performance, including communication with our stakeholders. This Division will be led by Bonnie Silva. In this position, Bonnie will also serve as the Deputy Office Director of the Office of Community Living.
- A third Division will carry out the work to administer our benefits, including the entire spectrum of services from home and community-based service waivers to skilled nursing facilities. This position was posted open-competitive and interviews will be underway shortly.
- The fourth Division will manage the operations and administration of our office, including contract and financial management and provider support. This position was posted open-competitive and interviews will be underway shortly.

Sarah talked with the group about their thoughts, concerns, excitement, etc. The group, on a whole, was already aware of the restructuring occurring in OCL and were supportive of the efforts to streamline and merge the two divisions. The group also discussed how this restructuring would lend well to implementing Community First Choice in the future. Sarah also let the group know that the Department wants to move quickly on this restructuring and has plans to fill positions by mid-October. Once the positions have been filled, an announcement will go out to all of our community partners.

Josh talked about how we are in a better place than we were previously but now with the possible Graham-Cassidy bill, there is a possibility that we may go through the attempt to repeal again. The group is hopeful that this will be the last attempt in 2017 and that we will have a reprieve until the spring.

Dawn brought up a good point that we need to recognize that some individuals who are aging are not getting the necessary services. The group discussed that there is a group of individuals who are aging with disabilities who are not getting HCB services in order to live in the community as their needs increase as they get older. The group started to brainstorm how we could build this into a CFC state plan option. The group also talked about how we will be able to serve individuals who have a mental illness or who have an intellectual or developmental disability through CFC.

Tim discussed specific examples of a woman who has cerebral palsy and is vision impaired. As she has gotten older, her vision has gotten worse which has made it more difficult, if not impossible, to drive her wheelchair. The group had several more examples of this and discussed how this is a very large problem with people remaining in the community.



The group discussed the need for a better assessment tool and inquired about updates on this initiative. Sarah said that she will circle back with Tim Cortez and get more information to the group for the next month.

David Bolin discussed how there are many seniors who may not be interested in directing their own care and that we want to be very careful about eliminating “choice” for people through CFC. Sarah and the group agreed that this is one of the most important tenants of the program, that the choice to direct or not direct your own care, is included.

David also brought up questions that he had about The Innova Group reports as he was unable to attend the previous council meeting. He discussed how the contractor included examples that didn't relate to Colorado's current LTSS system. The group talked about the necessity of cleaning up the report, ensuring it was accurate with Colorado's system, and making it more concise, so that it might be used as a discussion point with legislators. The group asked if this report had been cleared and approved by the Department and Sarah reiterated that this was a “working” draft document and that per our working agreement with the council, the Department did not want to alter or edit before the council could review. Our Budget division has not approved this report and verified the numbers but Sarah is checking back in with them on a timeline for their thoughts.

The group talked about the necessity of having a more comprehensive document of the major initiatives coming out of the Department and how this might intersect with implementing CFC. The timeframe that the contractor proposed does not appear to be feasible so the council would like to determine a more realistic timeline of events.

4. Next Steps

- Sarah to post approved minutes to website for August
- Sarah to schedule meeting for October 23, 2017
- Sarah will start a list of large initiatives that are going on within the Department and how this may intersect with implementing CFC

