



Community First Choice (CFC) Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 4, 2013
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1st Floor Conference Room
225 East 16th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Greetings (Martha Beavers)

Co-Chairs: Martha Beavers, (HCPF)

Phone Attendees: Julie Reiskin, Diana Delgado, Kevin Smith, Heather Jones (Mesa County), Jean Hammes (AAA), Ed Kako (Mission Analytics), Kira Gunther (Mission Analytics), Heather Morrow (CCDC), Kevin Smith (Accent On Independence)

In-Person Attendees: David Bolin (Accent on Independence), Tyler Deines (DHS-DDD), Shannon Zimmerman, Barry Rosenberg (PASCO), Dawn Russell (Adapt), Ed Milewski (CPWD), Jose Torres (CCDC), Lori Thompson (DHS-DDD), Marijo Rymer (Arc of Colorado), Carol Meredith (Arc of Arapahoe-Douglas), Lynn Robinson (Easter Seals Colorado), Valerie Saiz (Colorado Respite Coalition), Bret Pittenger (HCPF)

Announcements:

- Martha Beavers asked whether council members had updates to the October minutes. Julie Reiskin mentioned that she was at the meeting, but was not listed in the minutes. Martha will update.

Person Centered Planning Event (Martha Beavers & Tyler Deines):

As mentioned in the last meeting, HCPF will be hosting an event on the afternoon of December 2, 2013. This event begins at the same time as the next scheduled CFC meeting, but will probably last until 4:30pm. Susan Fox from New Hampshire will present on Person Centered Planning. She works with aging and the DD community in New Hampshire. The goal of this meeting is to look at ways the state can build on existing efforts to become more person-centered (without focusing on selecting a specific tool). Susan Fox will present and then there will be break-out sessions based on groups (e.g. Developmental Disabilities or Traumatic Brain Injury). Each small group will discuss current person centered planning practices in Colorado, assess the state's strengths, and identify areas for improvement.

- Martha offered to set up a call with Susan Fox prior to the meeting to discuss the focus of the presentation and break-out sessions.

- Council members should inform Martha if there are specific individuals who should be invited to the event.
- Martha requested assistance in identifying facilitators for each break-out group. Once facilitators are identified, Martha may also need assistance ensuring there are attendees representing each group.
- Martha is in the process of identifying a venue for the event. The venue must be accessible and accommodate the number of people expected to participate.

Feasibility Analysis Update (Martha Beavers):

Martha has a draft of the Feasibility Analysis Report. The report still needs to finalize the cost estimates and go through internal review at HCPF staff before it can be shared with the Council. Martha hopes to be able to distribute the report to the council by the end of November, but timing is contingent on review at HCPF.

Martha anticipates there will be a recommendation to Community Living Advisory Group in January, rather than at the December meeting. Moving the recommendation timing to January will give the Council time to review and prepare a response to the report.

The reason that the report does not have final cost estimates is because Mission Analytics has been working with HCPF budget staff to make modifications to the model. Ed Kako presented recent changes to the financial modeling for CFC:

- Individuals who will be eligible for certain Personal Assistance Services for the first time: The initial model was not taking into consideration clients who are on waivers (or waitlists for waivers) that do not offer the full range of services that will be provided under CFC. Once a service is moved into CFC, this service is in the State Plan, meaning anyone who meets level of care would have access to this service. Mission Analytics adjusted the model to account for service usage among individuals will become newly eligible for these services under CFC. Across the board, this modification raises cost estimates.
- Take-up rates: An essential component of the model is the percentage of eligible individuals who will take up a service. To estimate take-up rates more accurately, Mission Analytics looked at historical take-up rates among individuals on current waivers and modified the model accordingly. For example, in an earlier version of the model, the take up rate for CDASS had been set model close to nearly 50 percent, which inflated costs. Using current rates to adjust the take-up estimates lowers overall costs and makes the model both more realistic and more defensible.

Ed noted that there are four services that are especially important to the model because they have a large impact on overall cost estimates. These services are Behavioral Therapy, CDASS, ILST, and Residential Habilitation.

Martha noted that the model does not include Residential Habilitation at the higher match rate because the Council has not recommended that it be included.

Ed explained that the model includes substitution of services. For example, the model can show what happens if 10 percent of individuals stop using LTHH because they move to services offered under CFC. However, the model cannot capture how individuals will change their use of services within a waiver. It also cannot capture the savings to the State Plan that might result from reduced hospitalizations, reduced use of prescription medications, and reduced institutionalization. While such shifts might well occur, there is currently no evidence-based way to determine the impact of these shifts.

Ed also explained that Colorado, to our knowledge, is the only state to provide financial modeling. Other states have evidently found themselves surprised by the costs of CFC; the enhanced 6 percent match does not typically result in an overall savings to the state, precisely because CFC services are available to everyone who meets level of care. For this reason, it is important that Colorado is focusing on cost estimates and modeling based on existing financial data.

Planning for Community Living Advisory Group Presentations (Martha Beavers):

There was an overview presentation of CFC at the October 28th meeting. The presentation was an opportunity to let others know more about CFC and the steps involved.

Martha will present at the Waiver Simplification Subcommittee meeting tomorrow. It is important that the CFC Council collaborate with the Waiver Simplification Subcommittee since moving to CFC clearly affects waiver simplification efforts. Ideally, the CFC council and the Waiver Simplification Subcommittee can collaborate to make a recommendation to the Community Living Advisory Group in January.

Respite Presentation (Lynn Robinson & Valerie Saiz):

Barry Rosenberg introduced the presenters: Valerie Saiz from Colorado Respite Coalition and Lynn Robinson from Easter Seals Colorado. The first presenter discussed some goals of the agency: to increase training for respite providers; to increase funds for respite; to make people more aware about the need of respite; and to increase collaboration among agencies and service providers. The presenter also discussed cost savings that may come from providing respite by increasing stability that in-turn may reduce hospitalization and crisis. Respite also increases caregiver functioning and family stability.

The second presenter discussed the importance of respite at the 1) right time, 2) right type, and 3) right place. She told the personal story of her family, explained the importance that respite played in their lives, and illustrated how respite allowed her family to continue providing care to her son and maintain their own well-being.

Wrap up and next steps (Martha Beavers):

Next meeting Monday December 2, 2013 will be replaced by the Person Centered Planning Event