

OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD ONLINE

September 14, 2022 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kathy Dwyer, Chair, at 12:36 pm

ROLL CALL:

SAC Voting Members Roll Call: 8 out of 17 – 6 vacant slots – No Quorum

Region I – MHSD – Penny Curran – absent; Holly Bell – present

Region II – CAHSD – Kay Lewis – absent; Michelle Walls - present

Region III – SCLHSA – Tiffany Brunet – absent

Region IV – AAHSD – Rebecca Fruge' – present

Region V – IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott – present; Dana Fullington – absent

Region VI – CLHSD – Kristen Reed – absent

Region VII – NLHSD – no representation – 2 vacancies

Region VIII – NEDHSA – Nicole Bilberry – absent; Konstance Causey – present

Region XI – FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeois – present; Kristen Essaied – absent

Region X – JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer (Chair) – present; Jen Walle – present

OCDD AD HOC Members

Julie Foster Hagan – OCDD – present

Tanya Murphy – OCDD – present

Brenda Sharp – OCDD – absent

Jacquelyne Cobb – OCDD – present

Amy Greer – OCDD – Absent

Charles Ayles – OCDD – Absent

Bernard Brown – OCDD – Absent

General Public: Robert Blue, Brenton Andrus, Stephen Kauffman, Carmen Cetnar, Janet Connell, LaSwana Johnson, Robert Doucet, Al Thibodeaux, Katelyn Ramsey, Christina Martin, Kasey Hill, Theresa Van Hasselburg, Susan Riehn, Taylor Umphries, Nancy LeBlanc, Jennifer Lancing, Karissa Jackson, Karen Scallan, Nicole Flores, Janise Monetta, Leslie Fontenot, Christie Curtis, Stacey Guidry, Katie Kroes, Jeanne Broussard, Julie Folse, Brenda Crosse', Rona Burkett, Jennifer Collins-Lansmon, Charlie Michel; Sharon Delvisco

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: No quorum. Originally scheduled someone from Child Protective Services to do a presentation, but they aren't available until the November 9th meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes for the May 11th and July 13th meetings was postponed to the November 9th meeting due to no quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited 3 minutes per person

Katelyn Ramsey – commented about DCFS. Someone sent a quote from Rep. Jason Hughes of New Orleans that states he's revamping the DCFS office. He will be making a public statement and seems to be calling out and calling for meetings and looking into the matter.

OCDD REPORT – Julie Foster Hagan

Budget Update

- Transportation rate increases will begin in October for those services that do not require a waiver amendment and after approval of waiver change for supports waiver.
- EarlySteps rate increases – providers received the back pay and new rate for Medicaid billable services 8/31 and they will receive back pay and new rate for non-Medicaid billable services by 9/30. It will take about 3 months to change case management services to a flat rate, but they will receive a higher unit-based rate now.

Legislative Update

- HCR 38 workgroup has begun meeting and are on target to produce report within timeline on services for people with co-occurring I/DD and behavioral health concerns
- HCR 39 (study barriers to hiring direct support workers) and HCR 40 (study cost of providing nursing services in waiver and ICFs) – survey sent out to obtain information from providers and last day to respond is today. We have received 143 responses, which will be analyzed and included in the report along with other work being done.
- HCR 14 workgroup to study voting rights for persons with disabilities. Julie Foster Hagan to serve as LDH representative.

COVID Update

- We had a slight increase when children returned to school, but it was not a spike and numbers are now decreasing.
- There is a new COVID booster and Dr. Kanter is encouraging all people to get the booster. It is also time to get the flu vaccine, and he is recommending people get it now and can get booster at the same time. We are anticipating a very high flu rate this year.

Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application Update

- We remain under a federal public health emergency, and we expect that it will be continued in October because HHS has not given the 60-day notice they promised they would give prior to it ending.
- Workgroups for family as paid caregivers and virtual visits will begin meeting next week and expect that these groups will meet through October, and waiver manual updates and training will occur following final decisions.

SUN Screening Update

- Evaluation of current processes complete. We found that screeners were spending a substantial amount of time attempting to contact people to get the screenings done, which was impacting the ability to complete screenings.
- “Validation” of the Registry, which helps to ensure we have the most current contact information for people was put on hold during COVID. We have begun the process of validation now. All individuals on the Registry will receive a letter asking them to return a document indicating that they wish to remain on the registry. For all individuals who do not respond, OCDD conducts outreach to ensure they received / attempt to find updated contact information, etc. If a new address is identified, they will send letter to the new address. If no new address is identified, folks will get a second and last letter. Individuals who do not respond, or found to live out of state, or who are identified as deceased will be removed from the Registry. If in the future this is found to be in error, the family can go to the LGE and the date on the registry can be reinstated. This will help us get a “clean list” for the Registry and help with contact information.
- We are also changing our process to “schedule” screening calls through a central contact in the Office, which will allow the screeners to spend time on screening and not outreach and also allow individuals / families to be prepared and know when screening will occur.

American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Funds Update

- Bonus payments should be sent out in early October – this is for DSWs who work 16 or more hours per month in OAAS waivers, OCDD waivers, LT-PCS, and EPSDT – PCS
- START contract is near completion and we hope to begin the assessment process with START team early next calendar year.

Act 421: Children’s Medicaid Option Update

As of 9/2/2022:

- 1,166 applications received
 - 444 pending review
 - 203 denials (28%)
 - 496 approved (69%)
 - 23 withdrawn (3%)
- 657 phone calls referred to Act 421 staff

Note: The LGEs highlighted have a CAP in place that has been updated to include new strategies for process improvement.

REPORTS FROM REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Region I – Holly Bell reported:

- We had a meeting back-to-back, August 12th at 9:00 am and a General Meeting at 10:00 am.
- Elected an Interim Chair – Brenda Lackin, an Interim Vice Chair, and a Secretary to serve through December where we will have the general election.
- We also formed a work group to work on more numbers to have a voting quorum.
- Had a presentation by Haynes from Acumen – talked about the wage increase for Providers and Support Waiver Program.
- Also had a presentation from Navette from MHSD . She also talked about the bonus pay and dental coverage.
- Had a report from Self-Advocate about employment and help with parent training – partnering with Families Helping Families.
- Nicole Williams with FHF also gave an update about different trainings at school for teachers and parents around IEPs.
- Jaquille presented about the SAC meeting.
- No one was there from LACAN
- Announced that there would be a special meeting working on making their program more exclusive. The meeting is on August 17th
- Special workgroup to meet over the By-Laws on September 8th.
 - Kathy – What is the status of the second representative for Region I on the SAC – they have been absent for several meetings.
 - Holly – I heard from Penny several months ago and she said she lost contact with the SAC and wasn't getting the announcements. I gave her the information and she hasn't responded. She hasn't been to the last few RAC meetings either. Maybe we need to look at getting a new member. I will put that in my notes for the next meeting.

Region II – No Representative present

Region III – Charlie Michel reported:

- Met on August 11th
- Several reports were given
 - June – 183 new referrals – of the 183 – 32 not eligible
 - No transitions in June
 - Total count of children actively receiving services from EarlySteps – 373
 - July – 214 referrals – 35 not eligible for services
 - 8 transitions out of EarlySteps in July
 - Total count receiving services – 380
 - As of August 11th, meeting total – 788 children actively receiving services from EarlySteps
 - DD Services – 1, 280 – certified waiver at the end of July. Of those 1,098 adults – 182 children

- 74 waivers processed, not yet certified. Of those 74 – 46 adults – 28 children
- Number of Waiver Units
 - 263 – Supports Waiver
 - 199 Children Choice – 60 adults, 18 and over
 - 97 adults + 1 minor - ROW Waiver
 - 678 – NOW Waiver
 - SLOSHA – Local LGE for Employment – Under Corrective Action Plan
 - Targeted 20% of those who want to be employed
 - 10.73% - Last quarter – while they are on Corrective Action Plan the number are improving.
 - As if July 1 – 113 – request to Family Support Unit
 - 83% request received approval from Funding Community
 - LGE ended the Fiscal Year with 97% of their funding; the reason they didn't use the full 100% because several individuals who usually use funding for vocational services did not attend those services.
 - Flexible Family Fund – 146 slots with 130 filled, 33 waiting list individuals
 - As of June 30th, all slots were funded.
 - Since the last RAC meeting – there were 3 funded – 65 Crisis Cases funded and will extend all funds.

Region IV – Rebecca Fruge' reported:

- Met on September 13, 2022, had a Quorum. Had 7 out of 11 Committee members present.
- Robert Blue with Healthy Blue was in attendance
- Johnnie Washington with AAHSD reported on the last Quarter of the Fiscal Year
 - 581 Cases of System Entry
 - 221 Flexible Family Funding
 - 276 Family Support Cases served
 - Currently serving 2, 461 Waiver Clients
 - Still remain the largest Region of Waiver clients serves
- Next meeting is set for December 13th.

Region V – Mylinda Elliott reported:

- People entering group home: 3 were transfers and 2 were initials, but none of them were waiver recipients specifically what we wanted to know about.
- Entry Unit made 95% of timely referrals with 38 out of 40
- EarlySteps – for those who were interested – 31 out of 31 – 100%
- Complaints – 3 in the quarter – all timely addressed according to policy.
- Employment – 6.95% - not meeting requirements.

Region VI – no Representative to report

Region VII – no Representative to report

Region VIII – Konstance Causey reported:

- Last meeting was July 26th – had a Quorum
- Regional HSA reported on Entry
 - 109 Statements of Approval
 - 6 were sent to the Eligibility Review Team
 - 1 received Statement of Approval – denial was overturned
 - Serving 180 individuals through IFS
 - Flexible Family Fund – 100% filled – 150 out of 150 slots filled
 - 16 Determinations were made
 - There were questions regarding the impact of Dental Care Law on IFS Funding. Where individuals who should be referred to new Medicaid Services; was there a referral process set up to make sure they know about the new Medicaid Dental Service coverage.
 - Feedback from the HSA – only impact to people who were actively receiving waiver services, so there's conversation around the need for continued advocacy for individuals who live in group homes, but also have developmental disabilities.
- Had a report from Waiver:
 - Increase overall of 5 slots
 - 97 linkages that are pending certification
 - 2 areas on quarterly report where they didn't reach quality standards:
 1. Percentage of people employed in Community-Based employment
 2. Percentage of Plan of Care that were reviewed and approved per policy.
 - There's one issue from a member of the public regarding need for more training for Direct Support staff to provide personable quality care.
- HSA did mention the possibility to have Self-Advocates to do in-person training to our new DSW staff to give first-hand experience.
- 2 member forms to be approved, since we did add 2 new members
- Next meeting is October 25, 2022.

Region IX – Suzanne Bourgeois reported

- Last RAC meeting August 9, 2022 – had a Quorum present
- Received reports from Florida Parishes:
- Act 421 – Children's Medicaid Program
 - 107 referrals received from OCDD – 82 were approved as of July 31st.
- Waiver Individual supported – 1,904
 - 103 were linked
 - 79 discharged – either through refusals, moved out of state, community homes or death.
- CMS HCBS setting rules validation visits on going.
- Community Homes – 64 homes within our region
 - One provider is trying to reopen one
- Flexible Family Fund – 196 slots filled, waiting list for that
- Family Support – 99% of the budget was expended.

- Quality Management report with increase individuals employed
 - 8.81% which was improved
- EarlySteps - report much discussion about rate increase. There's a grant that talks about referral rates. SPOEs are mostly operational.
- Northshore FHF presented with increase contract
 - Several activities going on
 - Presentation with Rona on Waiver
 - LATAN meeting continue
 - ABLE Club and People First reported on their events

Region X – Jen Walle reported:

- Last meeting July 26th
- Heard updates from JPHSA on EarlyStep referral:
 - 31 children aging out; only 2 referrals resulted in SOA or SOD.
 - Discussed the 29 of the 31 who didn't respond
- Individual Family Support – over 109% funds expended by the 4th quarter.
- Flexible Family Fund – 281 slots filled
- Employment below target of 20% - 9.18% - among individuals receiving OCDD Waiver.
 - Will be looking at that issue more at the next meeting.
 - Requested some updates around referrals from school system where they are leaving the school system and going into employment.
- Received an update from Kathy of the Dental Care which we just heard from Julie.
- Had an update from Families Helping Families
 - Reviewed 10 trainings for JPHSA
 - 105 training and other contracts across the region
- Heard information from LATAN regarding input session – happening in August
- Next meeting will review the roster
- Also some discussion around Partners Policy making
- Next meeting is October 25, 2022.

Dental Task Force Report:

Kathy reported that the Dental Task Force met on Friday, September 9th and will be submitting a proposal to the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) requesting their support for mandatory Continuing Education in Special Needs Dentistry. The LDA Board will be meeting in September. She also reported about the new Adults Dental Waiver Program and that the Dental Workforce has been working on training opportunities for families, caregivers, and providers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kathy – Julie just noted in the private chat that the following SAC members were approved, Charlie Michel, Allen Thibodeaux, and Julie Folse, and letters will be going out. I would like to make that as part of the official record that they are members as of today and present which changes our Quorum. I would like to request a deviation from the agenda to go back to approving the minutes. There were no objections.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy stated that now that we have approvals of the 3 new members which makes a quorum, she would like a motion to approve May 11th SAC meeting minutes. Charlie Michel motioned to approve the May 11th SAC meeting minutes. Konstance Causey seconded the motion. There were no objections. The May 11th SAC meeting minutes were approved.

Kathy also requested a motion for approval of the July 13th SAC meeting minutes. Mylinda Elliott motioned to approve the July 13th SAC meeting minutes and Holly Bell seconded the motion. There were no objections. The July 13th SAC meeting minutes were approved.

SAC Members: Kathy reported that there are still 6 vacant positions: Two pending in Region 3 (SCLHSA), One vacant in Regions 4 (AAHSC) & 6 (CLHSD), and two vacant in Region 7 (NLHSD)

NEW BUSINESS

In addition to the SAC Application form, there's an LDH Designee form that has to be completed by SAC applicants.

The next SAC meeting is November 9th. At that meeting new officers will need to be nominated and elected. That is, the positions of Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Collins-Lansing announced that she will be having a big event and would like help getting the flyers out for the event.

Motion to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM