



Legislative & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017 -- 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

DD Council Office

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 706

Denver, CO 80203

MEETING AGENDA:

- 11:00 Convene, establish quorum, review agenda (Hal)
- 11:05 Approval of June 5, 2017 and August 29, 2017 LPPC meeting minutes (Hal)
- 11:10 CDHCPF organizational realignment and status of HCBS Program changes (Jennifer)
- 11:25 Review of last meetings action items
Decision regarding letter in support of the Disability Integration Act (Bob)
Information regarding the ADA Education and Reform Act (Bob)
Receive document on Supported Decision Making (Michael)
- 11:35 Updates on DD Councils reorganization/funding cuts, CBA action on Supported Decision-Making Partnership with Other Organizations, Council action? (Marcia)
- 11:45 Feasibility/Advisability of establishing LPPC subcommittees - decision (Hal)
- 11:55 Defending Medicaid – thoughts for an action plan (all)
- 12:10 Access-a-Ride: client eligibility, personal safety – should we take action? (Hal)
- 12:15 Public Comment
- 12:20 Last thoughts, items for October meeting agenda (all)
- 12:25 Summary of action items and decisions
- 12:30 Adjourn
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NEXT MEETING: OCT 17, 2017, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, DD COUNCIL OFFICES

DISCUSSION:

1. Hal Wright called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.
2. Jennifer Martinez, new Council and Committee member provided an update on the re-organization that is occurring at the CO Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department). The Depart is restructuring into four divisions replacing the current two:
 - a. Case Management Division. including the 20 Community Centered Boards and 27 Single Entry Points, including quality assurance;
 - b. Programs and Services Divisions, including 11 waivers, PACE Program, and Nursing Homes;
 - c. Policy Initiatives and Communication Divisions, research, development, policy initiatives and will streamline communication;
 - d. Operations Divisions, the nuts and bolts of operating the organization.The intention of the re-org is to streamline services between Long Term Services and Supports and the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
3. Hal led a discussion about actions the Committee felt it should take regarding potential threats and cuts to Medicaid. He proposed that the Committee approach this with a two-tiered approach in terms of dealing with impacts to the State Medicaid program:
 - a. Maintain and build collaborations with other cross-disability coalitions in the State
 - b. Take action once legislation is passed
 - c. Jennifer Martinez shared that she believed it was too early to determine what type of action to take, because nothing definite has been proposed; Jennifer also stated the all of the Department's meetings are open to the public so everyone who is interested may participate, including persons with disabilities, family members, and Marcia Tewell and/or Bob Lawhead.
4. Lisa Franklin, on behalf of Parent 2 Parent Colorado stated that this re-organization of the Department should make navigating case management services easier, due to concerns expressed by parents regarding issues of consistency of waived services provision based upon where a person entered services—Single Entry Point vs. Community Centered Board. Jennifer Martinez stated that Conflict-Free Case Management will be located within the Case Management Services Division.
5. Hal invited Committee members to share their thoughts about defending Medicaid from budget cuts:
 - a. Hal Wright proposed establishing working relationships with organizations that have similar values to the Council including the Arc of CO and its associated chapters across the State; he also proposed conducting focus groups with family members to ensure their voices are included in the processes;
 - b. Lisa Franklin stated the Parent 2 Parent of CO focuses on informing people about what is happening in Washington, DC; she likes the idea of forming focus groups to educate stakeholders about the Council, the Legislative and Public Policy Committee, and how to provide input to the Council;
 - c. Marcia reflected upon how recent activity on the Federal level regarding the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid have brought the disability community together and added the caveat that Council actions with other collaborative groups would be dependent upon Council values and the Developmental Disability Act;
 - d. Marcia shared recent threats to the inclusive employment provisions of the WIOA from segregated employment providers and further reflected that Medicaid is a program that has been in existence for over 50 years and is something that some political groups are excited to cut in affiliation with amendments to the Affordable Care Act;

- e. Alicia Eakins proposed waiting to take action until there is a better understanding of what the issues will be and supported the idea of conducting focus groups as a means of public education and not griping sessions;
 - f. Lisa Franklin expressed support of the forums and see them as a way to get input from parents and legislative staff—they could potentially bring together many people.
6. Discussion ensued about the design of the forums with an agreement to bring a proposal of having the first committee meeting of the month (when the State legislature is in session) be the public forum and utilizing the second meeting of the month to conduct committee business; Hal proposed using the list of interests generated at the August Committee meeting to inform speaker for the forums; Sue Fager reminded Committee members that forum topics should reflect the Five Year Plan Goals and Objectives.
7. Hal recommended that Committee and Council members reach out to and engage with their legislators once the Committee has identified potential legislation to be run; Senator Dave Young provided Hal with a list of Senators the Council should be reaching out to as he and Senator Aguilar will be completing their service after the next legislative session.
8. The Committee took up the Disability Integration Act Letter that was discussed at the August Committee meeting and decided to request that Bob Lawhead develop the letter in time for it to be brought forward to the Council for a full vote next week. Marcia clarified that actions that require a quick turn-around can be decided upon by the Committee; actions that have more time can be brought to the Council for decision-making.
9. Marcia Tewell shared the document on Supported Decision Making that Committee member, Mike Hoover participated in developing; the Committee would like the document to be provided to the Council at next week's meeting.
10. Marcia Tewell provided an update on proposed Supported Decision Making action the Council may want to consider based on her conversations with Jonathan Martinis and the Tennessee DD Council; Texas passed legislation on SDM that provided only two choices—guardianship or SDM; Tennessee realized that it would be most helpful to educate all stakeholders first about SDM and the position the National Bar Association has taken on SDM; after the educational effort then move forward with attempts at legislation. Marcia shared her conversation with Representative Young who is proposing 14 year olds with IEPs be evaluated for the need for guardianships as a means of determining who may need waiver services in the future. Jennifer Martinez shared that understanding guardianship and its alternatives is something that case managers really struggle with.
11. The Committee briefly discussed the advisability of tackling all 8 of the items it identified at the August Committee meeting; Marcia encouraged members to consider how much they believe they can tackle.
12. Hal requested agenda items for the meeting next month:
 - a. Jessica Howard proposed narrowing down proposed bills to work on and exploring legislators that would be a good match; Hal stated that it is too early to know what legislation will be run, but proposed exploring legislators to collaborate with.
 - b. Marcia will ask Senator Irene Aguilar for a list of legislators she would recommend working with on disability issues;
 - c. Lisa Franklin would like to explore which other advocacy groups the Council may want to collaborate with.
13. Public Comment: Guest Steve Miller sought clarification on whether the Council ever proposed legislation or just reacted to bills. Marcia explained that the Council has done both in the past.
14. Jessica Howard moved to adjourn the meeting; Lisa Franklin seconded—the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Motions/Actions:

1. Jennifer Martinez moved to approve the June 5, 2017 Committee meeting minutes; Hal Wright approved; the Committee voted to approve the minutes as recorded.
 2. Hal Wright moved to approve the August 29, 2017 Committee meeting minutes; Jennifer Martinez seconded; the Committee voted to approve the minutes as recorded.
 3. The Committee will continue its discussion of public forums at its October meeting.
 4. Bob Lawhead will develop a letter supporting the Disability Integration Act for approval by and signature of the full Council.
 5. Marcia Tewell will ensure that the Supported Decision Making Document will be shared with Council members.
 6. Marcia Tewell will contact Senator Irene Aguilar regarding a list of legislators that she would recommend the Council work with on disability issues.
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Council Committee Members Present: Alicia Eakins (P), Lisa Franklin (P), Jessica Howard (P), Jennifer Martinez, Julie Schleusener (Phone), Hal Wright

Community Committee Members Present: None

Guests: Klaus Weickmann and Steve Miller, parents who are exploring options not in the current realm for housing, "Choices".

Staff Present: Marcia Tewell, Sue Fager

Absent: Sen. Irene Aguilar, Robert Buzogany, Jeanette Cordova, Kristen Erby, Patricia Henke, Mike Hoover, Sarah Metsch, Willie Wade, Deborah Marks Williams

MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes from June 5 and August 29, 2017 L&PP Meetings
3. Action Alert on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill
4. DOJ Letter