

**Department of Health Services Secretary Council**  
**For Children with Long-Term Support Needs**  
**Revised March 2017**

Nearly 10,000 children in Wisconsin have disabilities requiring long-term support. With the right supports and services, children with disabilities, like all children, can pursue their interests, and contribute and participate in all aspects of family and community life. Families play a central role in providing day-to-day care and a lifelong foundation for their children to lead full, self-determined lives. Providing families with information and strategies that are tailored to address each family's unique strengths, needs, and goals further promotes meaningful inclusion and independence.

The Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs (CLTS) is charged with providing recommendations to the Secretary regarding the needed infrastructures, accountability measures and mechanisms, financing systems, training programs, program design elements, efficiencies and statewide equity and consistency necessary to implement service delivery systems in communities throughout the State. The outcome of these recommendations is a CLTS system that provide services, supports, and other assistance that address the needs of children with long-term support needs and their families who want to live, learn, and participate in all aspects of community life.

## **Section 1**

### **Establishment of the Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs**

The Council for CLTS shall consist of 25 voting members appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health Services. A majority of these members will be parents who reflect the diversity of the state and whose children have diverse long-term support needs; the membership will also include consumers of the children's long-term support system; advocacy agencies; counties; other state departments; and provider agencies. Key Department staff will be appointed as non-voting members of the Council.

The Secretary shall appoint a chairperson of the Council for CLTS, who shall report on a regular basis regarding the progress of the Council for CLTS and action steps needed to implement the Council's recommendations. Council memberships shall be on a rotation of two and three year terms.

Council for CLTS shall meet at least quarterly, and more frequently when necessary.

## **Section 2**

### **Mission of the Council**

The purpose of the Council for CLTS is to promote the vision and principles for a system of supports for children with disabilities, from birth to 22 years of age, and their families as described by the Children's Committee on Long-Term Support Redesign in the paper: *A Foundation for a System of Long-term Support for Wisconsin Children and Families* (12/98). The Council will regularly review DHS data and propose changes to programs and services based on information provided by DHS and other sources and advise DHS on the goals and strategies for implementing statewide services and supports for children with disabilities and their families. This will be accomplished through the development of initiatives in each of the five core areas identified in this paper, including: access, choice, coordination, quality and financing. The Secretary charges the Council for CLTS with the mission to propose action oriented strategies, including policies, practices, and procedures, designed to coordinate the provision of long-term supports and services for children and families in the State of Wisconsin consistent with these values and principles.

The Secretary requires that the recommendations of the Council for design, implementation and evaluation of programs, projects, and activities shall be in accordance with Federal and State law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid), and relevant Chapters of the State of Wisconsin Administrative Code.

## Section 3

### Responsibilities of the Council

The Council for CLTS shall develop and recommend to the Secretary comprehensive State policies and infrastructure related to the following areas:

- **Access:** Advise the Department on consistent eligibility determination policies, procedures and tools. Advise the Department on the development of information, assistance and advocacy (IAA) resources including an infrastructure to provide IAA for families. Advise the Department on ensuring statewide access for all families in Wisconsin, including rural and urban families, as well as families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- **Choice:** Advise the Department on the policies and procedures needed to implement family- directed services and supports. Advise the Department on policies and procedures that are flexible and designed to meet the needs of children and their families and that respect child and family dignity, preference and culture. Advise the Department on the programs and policies to ensure families, service coordinators and providers have comprehensive information needed to make informed choices. Advise the Department on the programs and policies to address barriers to choice.
- **Coordination:** Advise the Department on beneficial cross-system collaboration and coordination strategies with other state programs that support children and families including Medicaid state plan services, mental health, Birth-3, Children with Special Health Care Needs and the CLTS system. Propose strategies to streamline the governance of programs affecting children with long-term support needs to ensure coordination and collaboration. Monitor changes at the State or Federal level in Medicaid benefits and eligibility for impact on children with disabilities.
- **Quality:** Advise the Department on a quality assurance and improvement process for understanding the experience of children and families with the system and service system outcomes. Specifically, advise the Department on new or emerging best practices and evidence-based strategies in children's long-term support programs and services; a framework for measuring the effectiveness of CLTS programs; a framework for measuring for the cost-effectiveness of CLTS programs; and framework for supporting continuous quality improvement strategies.
- **Financing:** Advise the Department on the implementation of the CLTS Waivers, the Children's Community Options Program, and other long-term supports and services. Advise the Department on plans to reduce the waiting lists for long-term supports and increase access to community supports and services. Advise the Department on efficient and cost-effective systems of financing and supports that increase the capacity of community services.

**2017- 18 Charge of the Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Council  
Approved by Secretary Seemeyer May 19, 2017**

Secretary Linda Seemeyer of the Department of Health Services (DHS) charges the Children’s Long-Term Support Council with providing advice and guidance to DHS on the following focus areas:

**Coordination:** Explore the development of protocols for assisting DHS in promoting coordination of all supports and services for the child across systems, settings, and programs.

- Advise the Department on collaboration and coordination strategies with other state programs that support children and families; Medicaid state plan services including Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), mental health including Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Birth-3 Program, Children with Special Health Care Needs and the Children’s Long-Term Supports system, including the CLTS Waiver Program and Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP).
- Explore and advise the Department of service delivery models best suited to support children and families with long term support needs.

**Quality:** Explore the development and use of quality metrics to analyze the impact and outcomes of program participation for children and families.

- Provide advice and guidance in determining metrics to assess the effectiveness of the entirety of the support system in place to support children with long term support needs and their families.
- Provide advice and guidance on criteria for establishing efficacy of services standards to assure qualitative measurement in determining impact.

**Financing:** Advise the department on strategies to assure ongoing sustainability of program efficacy and financial viability

- Advise the Department on effective implementation of plans to eliminate the waiting lists for long-term supports, including systemic and resource preparedness.