

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Council		Attending: Council Members: Wendy Heyn, Patti Becker, Kelly Blaschko, Kerry Blondheim, Anne Dent, Lisa Hanks, Pamela Hencke, Barbara Katz, David McGinley, Katy Morgan-Davies, Marianne Novella, Cherie Purdy, Angela Radloff, Walt Schalick, Tracy Stanislawski, Lisa Stephan, Sandra Tierney
Date: 8/9/2023	Time Started: 9:00a.m.	Time Ended: 1:30p.m.
Location: Zoom Conference Call		Excused: Beth Swedeen, Windsor Wrolstad
		Absent: Anouvong "Toto" Chanthavixay, Krital Knudtson, Tammy Lewan
		Public Attendees: Danielle Tolzmann, Amber M., Niki G.,
		DHS Staff: Deb Rathermel, Andy Forsaith, Beth Gullickson, Dan Kramarz, Kevin Coughlin, Autumn Linsmeier, Jessica Holland, Debbie Borquist-Conlon, Jess Ford-Kelly
		Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel

Minutes

Council member updates and announcements

- Approval of May 3, 2023, Draft Meeting Minutes
 - Approved by Walt Schalick, seconded by Patti Becker

Public Comments

- Danielle Tolzmann, Family Voices, shared an update on issue of program enrollment in Eau Claire County. She recommends the council draft a motion to direct increased Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) directive to county waiver agencies with lagging access.
- A parent shared confusion on where to get the Deciding Together survey, an interest in increasing parent training or sharing of resources with parents, such as the waiver manual.
- A parent shared that they had to seek out information from other parents due to a lack of response from their county waiver agency.

2023-2025 Biennial Budget Update

- The final budget adopted the DHS recommendations for CLTS cost to continue.
- The budget continued the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) home and community-based services (HCBS) increase that was implemented in January 2022, which includes a 5% rate increase for eligible HCBS services such as CLTS.
- Increase rates for personal care services, and nursing home support services.
- The legislature did not adopt behavioral health medical assistance (MA) school-based services and community services.
- The legislature passed a new behavioral health crisis model of \$10 million that will be drafted into separate legislation.

- Council Questions:
 - Question regarding what we are projecting for CLTS enrollment and cost?

OPIB response: Through the biennial budget process, we make assumptions about enrollment and costs per member to develop a best guess estimate of the amount of funding needed for Medicaid benefits in the coming biennium. These assumptions are from the perspective of when the Medicaid program would incur the cost and pay the claim, and they are informed by but don't dictate Medicaid enrollment and reimbursement policy.

Statewide Enrollment Status

- Following parent and Family Voices speaking at the May CLTS Council meeting, the Bureau of Children Services (BCS) director in partnership with the Eau Claire County Human Services director was able to support the county in seeking increased positions.
- The Eau Claire County finance committee approved the requested additional positions.
- The Eau Claire County Board is set to vote on August 15 to hire 10 support and service coordinator (SSC) staff, 1 supervisor, and one support staff.

Council Motion:

Motion made by Barbara Katz and seconded by Patti Becker

- It is the position of the CLTS Council that timely access and enrollment to CLTS Program is critical to Wisconsin children and families. For this reason, the CLTS Council requests that the DHS secretary, for a time period of at least the next 12 months, direct BCS to move quickly using all tools and motivators available to reduce the CLTS enrollment wait time to less than 90 days for those counties with consistent delays of six months or more between eligibility and enrollment, as well as provide regular updates to the CLTS Council during regularly scheduled council meetings.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Health Emergency Unwinding

- Goals of the Public Health Emergency unwinding are to implement a successful return to routine operations and ensure Wisconsin residents continue to have health care coverage.
- Medicaid Updates
 - Most Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members have renewals scheduled between June 2023 and May 2024
 - New renewal status webpage: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/renewalstatus.htm>
- CLTS Program Updates
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
 - Outreach to CWAs
 - Renewal dashboard can be located at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/renewalstatus.htm>
 - When a CLTS participant does not have or is losing another source of Medicaid, the CWA must work with the family to help them apply for other sources of Medicaid.
 - Status update on Appendix K
 - Flexibility for parents to deliver CLTS Program services.
 - Appendix K Waiver flexibilities end November 10, 2023
- Council Questions:
 - Question on whether it is possible to give people a tour of the dashboard.

- Question on what the difference is between getting Medicaid through Katie Beckett and through HCBS.
- Question about whether a definitive diagnosis is needed for the Functional Screen.
- Question about why Katie Beckett eligibility is not in ACCESS.

Interpreter Services

- Council moved to skip presentation.

CLTS Program Data

- CLTS Enrollments have increased in Quarter 2 of 2023
- CLTS Disenrollments have increased in Quarter 2 of 2023
- There have been 41 total CLTS appeals in 2023.
- There are over 2,100 initially qualified providers in the CLTS Provider Registry
- Council Questions:
 - Question: Do we track the reasons why participants disenroll due no longer accepting services?
 - Question: Does the data gives any indication that people are dropping out because their MA is ending?
 - Question: Is there such a thing as a verbal denial of appeals?

ARPA Project Updates

Certified Direct Care Professional (CDCP)

Wisconsin's direct caregiving workforce is the backbone of home and community-based services. However, the industry is in crisis. Today, one in four direct caregiver positions is vacant. We are projected to need an additional 20,000 home care workers by 2024.

To better recruit, support, and retain these vital workers, our approach to using ARPA funds includes:

- [Expanding career opportunities](#). A statewide professional certification system for direct care workers will be created to improve competency and career advancement. Workers can gain portable skills that apply from one employer to another without retraining, with a curriculum developed by our academic partner, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Visit [WisCaregiverCDCP.com](https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com) to learn more.
- Designing a statewide workforce platform, WisCaregiver Connections. This one-stop portal will feature job postings, candidate profiles, credentialing details, training opportunities, a resource library, and more. It will include a function to auto-match employers with job seekers. Qualified HCBS agencies and providers (see below) [can register](#) for this free platform.
- Free professional workforce advancement program to increase the number of direct care workers in HCBS including CLTS workers.
- \$500 bonus
- <https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com/>

WisCaregiver Connections

To better support and connect job seekers and employers our approach to using ARPA funds includes:

- Designing a statewide workforce platform, WisCaregiver Connections. This one-stop portal will feature job postings, candidate profiles, credentialing details, training opportunities, a resource library, and more. It will

include a function to auto-match employers with job seekers. Qualified HCBS agencies and providers (see below) [can register](#) for this free platform.

- With the launch of the CDCP program, candidates who earn certification will be able to connect with potential employers through our new, expanded workforce platform, WisCaregiver Connections.
- We are now recruiting eligible agencies to [join our free provider directory](#). This will make it easy for CDCPs to connect with employers after completing their training. Eligible providers/agencies are those that serve HCBS participants enrolled in programs such as Family Care, Partnership, IRIS, PACE, or CLTS and fee-for-service (FFS) providers who serve HCBS participants.
- The platform allows employers to:
 - Post job openings
 - Automatically match with job seekers
 - Screen candidate profiles and credentialing details

Plus, when you join the registry, your current staff will also be eligible to become CDCPs and receive bonuses, too!

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver-career/index.htm>

Council Questions:

- Question on if there will be tracking on longevity in the program?

Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) response: Yes, we will be rich in data. We will be tracking a person's registration, start of training, training completion, testing (score, number of tries), employment and retention. In addition, we will be surveying the individual including a mandatory survey response when recertification occurs every three years.

- Question if the website supports IRIS fiscal employment agents (FEAs).

DMS response: Yes, IRIS FEAs are eligible agencies and can [join our free provider directory](#).

- Question on whether families who hire for children in CLTS can be matched on the site.

DMS response: We are exploring how we might be able to do this. At this time, we cannot. We will provide updates related to this issue.

No Wrong Door – Supporting Kids Together & Wisconsin Wayfinder

- Vision to support families in finding their right next step after learning their child has a delay, disability, or special health care need.
- Outcome that Wisconsin families of children with delays, disabilities and special health care needs will have an easier way to find and get the supports they need.
- Wisconsin WayFinder will operate through the regional centers.
- Regional Centers will provide information and referral services, links to community providers, support for parents and guardians, technical assistance, and trainings.
- Soft launch in Northeastern Region in late September, statewide launch in October 2023
 - 1-877-WiscWay
 - [Dhs.wi.gov/wiscway](https://dhs.wi.gov/wiscway)
- Council Questions:
 - Question if calls to the Wisconsin WayFinder can support families of other languages.

Council member sharing and discussion – Emerging issues

- Electronic visit verification (EVV) is feeling burdensome for those with technology barriers.
- Discussion about whether there are new training requirements for respite workers in Milwaukee.
- Families experiencing SSC taking a week to respond to requests and is late in providing necessary items for child. Families paying out of pocket because it is difficult to receive answers through county.
- Discussion surrounding what high-cost items are defined as in CLTS.
- A county shared challenges when families are transitioning from CLTS to adult programs, different benefits, different providers, and program administration is different.

CLTS Council Updated Charge

The Charge for the Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs establishes and sets up the structure of the council, it outlines the mission and responsibilities and provides a basic framework for council operations.

The charge was last updated in March 2017.

- The purpose of the updated CLTS Charge is to: 1) accurately reflect current Council operations 2) add additional structure for Council operations and 3) clarify the role of the Council.
- Proposed changes to Council Charge and Mission
- Proposed changes to clarify the role of the council.
- Proposed changes on describing diversity helps the council.
- Proposed changes on membership term lengths.
- Proposed changes to absenteeism from council meetings.
- Proposed change to detail chair roles and responsibilities.

Wis. Stat. § 15.09

Council members are statutorily prohibited from being paid for their services. The purpose of the discussion is to determine if the Council would like to pursue steps to change this statutory prohibition.

- **Wis. Stat § 15.09(6)**
 - REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. Members of a council shall not be compensated for their services, but, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, members of councils created by statute shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, such reimbursement in the case of an elective or appointive officer or employee of this state who represents an agency as a member of a council to be paid by the agency which pays his or her salary. Members of the agricultural education and workforce development council may not be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- Council discussion on pursuing reimbursement authority under statute
 - Motion passed to bring up ask to the CLTS Executive Committee
 - Motion made by Patti Becker and seconded by Walt Schalick

Wrap -Up and Action Items (Next Meeting) 1:35 pm

Next meeting November 8, 2023