

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Long Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC)			Attending: Audra Martine, Audrey Nelson, Beth Swedeen, Christine Witt, Cindy Bentley, Dennise Lavrenz, Janet Zander, John Sauer, Kenneth Munson, LaVerne Jaros, Lea Kitz, Shanna Jensen, Stacy Ellingen, Shakita LaGrant, Beth Fields, Michael Bruhn, Jason Glozier
Date: 5/10/2022	Time Started: 9:30 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:11 p.m.	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Curtis Cunningham and Carrie Molke
Minutes			

Members absent: Denise Pommer, Elsa Diaz Bautista, Stephanie Birmingham

Others present: Brenda Bauer, Carrie Molke, Curtis Cunningham, Kevin Coughlin, Christian Moran, Jie Gu, Margarita Northrop, Julia Nagy, Shelly Glenn, Kimberly Schindler

Meeting Call to Order, presented by Curtis Cunningham

- Went over meeting processes.
- Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - Request to edit third bullet under State of Assisted Living by Lea Kitz.
 - Motion to approve revised minutes by Dennise Lavrenz. Seconded by Janet Zander. Unanimously approved.

Honoring Heather Bruemmer – Her Life and Legacy

- Board members shared memories of Heather and her contributions to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) Updates, presented by Curtis Cunningham

- Starting to look at public health emergency (PHE)/pandemic unwinding. In addition to starting up eligibility reviews, many of the flexibilities that were enacted during COVID via disaster SPAs, 1135 waivers and K waivers will expire at the end of the PHE. Work will be starting on updating policies and procedures that include these PHE flexibilities. Due to the public health emergency (PHE), we have not been disenrolling individuals. The goal for DHS is if an individual is found no longer eligible for Medicaid, there is a smooth transition to assure people do not go without health insurance.
- EVV status remains the same.
- HCBS Setting Rule Statewide Transition Plan needs to be completed by March 2023. CMS will be conducting site visits in June of heightened scrutiny settings.
- Lots of work with ARPA is happening. Updates will be provided this afternoon.
- **Council Suggestions:**
 - Would like an update on HCBS rate setting work.
 - Provide an update on the third-party evaluation of the LTC system and how it will consider all these ARPA project initiatives.

Division of Public Health (DPH) Updates, presented by Carrie Molke

- **Adult Protective Services**
 - Hosting APS conference September 28-29 at the Wilderness in the Wisconsin Dells.
 - Work has started on ARPA Initiative #9 to build system to replace WITS. Vendor has been secured and business requirements are being written. Gathering feedback from APS staff and other stakeholders so we build a system that works for everyone.

- BADR has historically had two APS staff that spend majority of time doing 1:1 consultation with county APS staff. Have hired new contract staff to work on more systemic issues. Started with survey to counties on training needs. Now working on building out these trainings.
- National partners have been developing materials for elder abuse awareness campaign. Currently reviewing these materials to determine if we want to join the campaign.
- Working on guides to help inform APS work. Starting with basic roles of the county, APS staff, MCOs, etc. Hope to include guidance when an investigation is in a facility.
- **Social Isolation and Loneliness**
 - Hired a coalition coordinator and the coalition has been meeting.
 - There are currently four sub-groups, but now added a fifth on health equity. This subgroup will support the work of the other groups.
 - Connected with the director of the Office of Children's Mental Health. They also have a coalition that has identified social isolation as a key priority. Looking at ways to integrate the work and look to intergenerational programming.
- **Aging Plan**
 - Submitted to ACL for review. Will be out for public comment soon. Trying public comment in a survey format hoping to facilitate more public feedback.
 - Many of the regulation of the Older American Act have not changed since 1988. ACL is opening the law for changes, deletions, additions, etc. ACL is seeking input from partners. Looking into how Wisconsin can have a voice in this process.
- **Integrating the Arts**
 - Looking at ways to integrate the arts into public health for elders and people with disabilities. Rhode Island developed a plan and did evidence-based work around how art interventions can have a positive impact on mental health. [Arts and Health: Department of Health \(ri.gov\)](https://www.health.ri.gov/topics/arts-and-health/)
- **Council Suggestion:**
 - When working APS data system, please review protective placements. There is not consistency amongst the counties in this area and guidance is needed.

General ARPA Updates

- Section 9817 of ARPA gives qualifying states a temporary 10% increase to their federal matching percentage on specific home and community-based services from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) applied to use ARPA funds to strengthen our HCBS programs, address direct care workforce issues, and develop strategies to delay the need for long-term care. There are 9 initiatives under ARPA with updates. More information can be found on the DHS webpage at: [American Rescue Plan Act: Extra Funding for Home and Community-Based Services | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/american-rescue-plan-act-extra-funding-for-home-and-community-based-services.htm)
 - 1. Medicaid HCBS Rate Reform
 - HCBS rate increase – complete
 - Establish rates for HCBS
 - Workgroup is just starting to meet on this project.
 - Tiered payment rates for SHC and PC
 - 2. Direct Care Workforce Reform and Analysis
 - Staff stability survey
 - Occurring now. Intended for agencies that provide services to I/DD population. Surveys due by June 30th. Hopeful many providers complete so we have robust data to analyze.
 - Working with Advancing States to create a similar survey for other populations. We could do our own, but then we lose comparability across states. Hoping to be part of pilot for national one.
 - Direct care professional certification and registry

- Connect to Care Jobs
 - Website that connects job seekers to employers across health care and residential services. Would like to expand the platform to everything workforce related: directories, data, dashboards. Still visionary stage at this point. Workgroup will reach out to stakeholders for feedback as this project proceeds.
- 3. Grant Opportunities
 - Hoping to finalize vendor contracts soon, then we should be able to start getting the actual grants out quickly.
- 4. Tribal LTC Enhancements
 - Currently working with CMS on what is allowable for tribal housing.
 - Funding ADRS positions for each tribe.
- 5. Independent Living Pilot
 - In process of finalizing concept paper. Team has been seeking input from stakeholders to create a concept of what this initiative will look like. Trying to make program as simple as possible. Anticipate it could be up to a year until individuals would be enrolled as we need to determine eligibility, enrollment, care coordination, billing, etc. Also need to consider how we transition this program as ARPA funding is time limited. Also intend to have robust evaluation built in so we can look to sustain the program into the future.
- 6. ADRC Modernization
 - Virtual ADRC
 - Guardianship training (newly added project)
- 7. No Wrong Door – Supporting Kids Together
 - Marketing for families with children with special needs
 - Web based portal for resources
- 8. Assisted Living Reporting, Assessment, and Certification
 - 1-2 Bed AFH Certification Tool
 - HCBS Review System
 - Facility Assessment Tool
 - Assisted Living Resident Assessment System
- 9. Adult Incident Reporting System
 - Vendor has been selected; workgroup is developing business requirements.
- CMS has heard from many states that the timeline to expend ARPA funding is too short. CMS has indicated that guidance may be released in the next few weeks to give some states flexibility on the timeline. Once we have this guidance, it will inform preparing for the biennial budget requests. We will need to consider how to sustain these projects once ARPA funding has been exhausted.
- **Council Suggestions:**
 - For independent living pilot, consider looking at specific issues (incontinence, falls, inability to care for their home) contributing to the person's need for assistance.

Member Satisfaction Survey Results, presented by Jie Gu

- Presentation of satisfaction survey results for Family Care, Family Care Partnership, PACE and IRIS. This is not a risk-adjusted survey so there will be differences in population and acuity distribution, which can affect how people respond. This survey is not intended to compare satisfaction across programs.
- **Council Suggestions:**
 - If statistical significance can be retained, suggest breaking the data down further by living arrangement, race, ethnicity, and gender.
 - Consider asking more specific personal experience questions such as the final care plan is reflective of discussions with care team; the care plan is stable, etc.
 - A similar survey should be done regarding enrollment counseling at ADRCs.

- BADR has been conducting ADRC customer satisfaction surveys for a long time. These are done approximately every two years but did not occur with COVID. BADR will share results with the LTCAC when completed in the future.

Public Comment

- No public comments.

State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), presented by Margarita Northrop and Julia Nagy

- Presentation of SHA and SHIP process and emerging themes thus far in the process.
- ***Council Suggestions:***
 - Are LTC issues included in these priorities?
 - LTC issues are subsumed into the broader categories. Healthy aging, discrimination, affordable housing, social connectiveness, employment, and community-based resources were all important to older adults and people with disabilities. Therefore, partnering with others in the LTC system is so important as we develop strategies for these areas.
 - Consider sharing more specific information on who provided the input, such as demographics, the geographic areas represented, etc.

Council Business, presented by Carrie Molke

- Next meeting July 12, 2022
- Suggested topics for future meetings:
 - Assisted living data
 - Workforce strategies
 - Impact of transportation on the LTC population
 - Looking to the future and different, innovative ways to deliver LTC services (Long-Path Charge)
 - Lessons learned from the pandemic: what worked, what do we still need to work on, how can we prepare for a future event.

Prepared by: Kimberly Schindler on 5/11/2022.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 7/12/2022