Governor's Autism Council

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 7, 2015
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Department of Health Services
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 751
Madison, WI 53707

Council Members:	Nissan Bar-Lev, Wendy Coomer, Vivian Hazell, Liesl Jordan, Pam Lano, Roberta Mayo, Glen Sallows
DHS Staff:	Pam Appleby, Julie Hyland, Dan Kramarz, Bill Murray, Camille Rodriguez
Public Attendees:	Nicole Berlowski, Eden Christman, Matthew Doll, Todd Eiden, Stacie Ferg, Tamlynn Graupner, Mike Miller, Alisa Morrison, Robert Peyton, Meg Puddy, Mel Roth, Katie Saint, Cheryl Suchooki, Jackie Vick, Krista Wilcox

The meeting commenced at 12:07 PM

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   Bill Murray, DHS staff to the Governor's Autism Council, welcomed members of the Council, Department of Health Services (DHS) staff, and members of the public. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Public Testimony**
   Only one member of the public offered a comment. Katie Saint posed a number of questions related to the transition of autism treatment from the Medicaid Waiver program under the Division of Long Term Care to the Medicaid Card program under the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability. She was referred to the informational web page on the DHS website, and also encouraged to submit the questions via the ASD Benefit email link at DHSASDBenefit@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

3. **Operational**
   - Council members reviewed minutes from the meeting held on May 28, 2015.
   - Glen S. made a motion to approve the May 28th meeting minutes; Nissan B.-L. seconded the motion; motion carries.

4. **Supplementary and Complementary Waiver Services**
   Camille R., Director of the Bureau of Children's Services spoke with the Council regarding supplementary and complementary waiver services, seeking Council input into preliminary thoughts on the ongoing role the Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Waivers will have after the transition of autism treatment services from the CLTS Waivers to the Medicaid Card. She shared that the Department held a conference call with a number of county waiver agency representatives on June 30th, and the conversation focused on: 1) case management and autism treatment services under the CLTS Waivers, and 2) daily living skill training and treatment services in the CLTS Waivers. County waiver agency representatives were clear in their acknowledgement that they feel the involvement of support and service coordinators in the authorization and ongoing monitoring of treatment services has improved the quality of service delivery. Similarly, county waiver agency representatives also stated they see little difference between daily living skill training and the treatment services provided by autism treatment providers. Camille R. asked Council members to share their thoughts on these two issues.

   - A number of Council members commented on the role county waiver agency staff play, noting that for children with a variety of needs and concerns, service coordination can be particularly useful. It was noted that during EIBI (intensive) treatment, when that is the only waiver service, the role of the service coordinator is less clear.

- Providers on the Council also noted the interface between treatment services delivered to children with autism and their ongoing work delivering daily living skill training to children, using treatment methods to efficiently work towards goal acquisition.

Camille R. wanted everyone to know that no decisions have been made relative to the role county waiver agencies may or may not play when treatment services move to a Medicaid Card service. She added that county waiver agency personnel that participated in the conference call were appreciative of the opportunity to share their thoughts with DHS staff.

Council members followed up with a number of questions related to the transition to Medicaid Card-covered treatment. Some of these were answered as there was staff representation from the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability. These questions follow:

Q. Can there be a waiting list for the new Medicaid benefit? (Vivian H.)
A. Medicaid Card benefits are entitlements and wait lists do not exist.

Q. Can the Department release more children from the existing wait list on a weekly basis? (Glen S.)
A. No decisions have been made on this, but related questions from DHS are can county waiver agencies and providers manage an increased number of children entering the system.

Q. Has thought been given to the impact of bringing children into a CLTS Waivers wait list system that won't be funding treatment in 2016? (Vivian H.)
A. DHS has been working on options for the existing wait list.

Q. What will be the role of county waiver agencies in helping families access Medicaid? (Glen S.)
A. It is not anticipated there will be a change from existing practices.

Q. When will DHS inform county waiver agencies to no longer place children on the state wait list for autism treatment? (Vivian H.)
A. The state is developing options for how to manage the wait list as we move forward on the creation of the Medicaid benefit.

Q. What does DHS require in order to move forward on decisions specific to the wait list and other issues pertaining to the new benefit? (Nissan B.-L.)
A. DHS will be speaking with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the near future, and these conversations must occur before we take specific actions.

Q. What other states are we looking at with respect to their plans for transitioning waiver-funded autism treatment to Medicaid? (Vivian H.)
A. Ohio and California are two states we often look to in regards to how they deliver services.

Following this there was a short break. Upon resuming the Council meeting, Camille R. asked Council members what type of information they believe is necessary to share with the county waiver agencies in the near future, in order for them to assist families in the best way possible. Council members comments follow:

- Give information specific to the new Medicaid benefit to the county waiver agencies so that they can then disseminate it to families. Schools also need to know. (Roberta M.)

- Providers also need to know at the same time, so that they can help answer family's questions with accurate information (Vivian H.)

- Create a letter, a Department web video, and a link to a FAQ document (Wendy C.)

- The information on the DHS website can be particularly helpful for families. (Glen S.)

- It is important to send the message that the waivers are not really changing, and that it is a funding change with respect to treatment services. (Vivian H.)

- Providers may be creating their own wait lists due to capacity issues. (Vivian H.)

- It is important to point out that for school-age children, as the competence of school staff increases in terms of their ability to work with children with autism, the need for treatment services will decrease. (Nissan B.-L.)

- Important and often used services that are part of the children's service array are respite, mentoring, social groups, parent training and daily living skill training, all of which will remain available (Pam L.)

Camille thanked the Council and the public for their participation, and everyone was reminded the next meeting will be on August 12th from 10 AM to 3 PM.

5. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM