

CMS Waiver Steering Committee Minutes

Date: July 26, 2007		Location: DDD: Fort Logan	
Present:		Carol Meredith	
Kathy Athens, Denver Options	X	Sarah Sills, Governor's Office	X
Claire Brockbank, Segue Consulting	X	John Miles, DDD	
Max Chmura, Navigant		Julius Monge	
Chris Collins, Alliance	X	John Nevins, Alliance/Imagine	X
Mike Crane, DHS/DDD	X	Paul Niemann, HCPF	X
John Daurio		Al Orlofsky, DDD	X*
Fred DeCrescentis, DDD	X	Roxanne Pinneo, CCB Partners	X
Kim Eisen, HCPF	X	Barb Prehmus, HCPF	
Gerrie Frohne, Parent	X	Barb Ramsey, DDD	X
Ted Hernandez, Denver Options	X	Jeremy Schupach, Alliance	
Luke Huwar, Governor's Office		Linda Skaflen, ARC Adams County	X
Roger Jensen, Alliance/Starpoint	X	Gary Smith, HSRI	
Jay Kauffman, DD	X	Matthew Solano, DDD	
Cami Learned, CCB Partners	X	John Taylor, Alliance/Imagine	X
Adrian Leiter, HCPF	X	Christine Thomas, DHS	X
Kristin McDermott, DDD	X	Jed Ziegenhagen, HCPF	

* Present by phone for his presentation

<p>I. Administrative</p> <p>a. Agenda Distribution</p> <p>In response to a request from a member of the community, the Steering Committee agreed that two mailing lists should be maintained. One will be for distribution of the agenda, minutes etc. and can include anyone who contacts Claire Brockbank (Brockbank@segueconsulting.com) and provides an email address. In addition, a Steering Committee only mailing list will be maintained for distributing documents that are not yet available to the public (e.g. drafts in advance of meetings).</p> <p>II. Staffing Updates: Christine Thomas</p> <p>Fred DeCrescentis' and Christine Thomas' job openings were announced on Monday 7/16. The announcement will run for two weeks, with oral boards scheduled for mid-August. Fred's position was not cleared for a national search so all</p>

candidates must have a Colorado address. Kristin McDermott, Program Evaluations Manager for ADRS,, was introduced. Kristin’s role on the Steering Committee will largely depend on the skill set of the person who fills Christine’s position.

III. Updates

a. Dental Bulletin – Barb Ramsey

The departments have been working on a bulletin to clarify what benefits are available to which populations (not limited to the Steering Committee’s DD population). Jay will set and communicate a date for distribution by close of business on 7/30.

Barb and Jay clarified that dental anesthesia still has to be done in the hospital. John Nevins asked what the process was for changing this. Jay indicated that clarification is needed as to whether this is a CMS or a HCPF restriction. Kim Eisen will follow up and find out the process for expanding anesthesia coverage to include office locations. This will be discussed in August.

b. FAQs – Barb Ramsey

No further work has been done on the FAQ modifications discussed in June. Barb will report back in August.

c. CMS Meeting – Christine Thomas

Vacation schedules at CMS prevented the July meeting from occurring. Tentative dates for August are the 1st or the 9th.

d. Skilled Nursing Directive – Barb Ramsey

Barb had very constructive meetings with the DD Nurses Association. Also present was a Home Health agency so valuable clarifications were provided. A final directive will be posted on August 3.

e. Appendix C Working Group – Christine Thomas

Jo Kammerzell and Kristie Braaten will coordinate this working group. It will focus on Provider Qualifications and Definitions (as they relate to each other). Currently Carol Meredith, John Taylor, Kathy Athens, and Cami (as back-up) have expressed interest in serving on this Working Group. Christine asked that any additional names be provided to her by 7/27. It was suggested that Jeff Kupfer be asked to participate in the group. Liz Fuselier would like to be kept apprised of the group’s work but does not have the staffing time to participate actively.

f. Definitions – Christine Thomas

CMS will not permit the language currently included in several places in the definitions “Including but not limited to”. A more exhaustive and specific list is required. Christine will mail out a document highlighting all areas where this occurs and

ask for assistance identifying specific situations.

The definitions document will not be revisited by the Steering Committee until after CMS looks at the draft. **Christine will give Claire an indication of when to anticipate this.**

Gerrie asked if there would be an opportunity for public comment. Christine clarified that the public hearings will provide this opportunity and that there will still be time to change material as a result of that input. Christine also indicated that they are leaning to having consolidated public hearings that cover both rates and the other information in the application because of the difficulty in scheduling in December/January. If they merge the meetings, there will be distinct opportunities to address different issues. Cami asked if a meeting would be held on the Western Slope as well as the Front Range.

IV. BUS and Service Plan Timing – Jay Kauffman

Jay provided the following clarification regarding the timing of the service plan:

The Service Plan has to be entered within 10 business days of the staffing. It must be finalized prior to the start of services on new enrollments. If there is a legitimate reason why it cannot be finalized prior to the start of services (i.e. an emergency enrollment at 5:00 pm on Friday afternoon), a log note can be entered and it will be reviewed by DDD staff. On Continued Stay Reviews its needs to be finalized prior to the end of the certification period.

Jay will send this clarification this week in memo format. Barb Ramsey will also include it in the FAQs.

V. SIS – Al Orlofsky (by telephone)

Work is underway to complete the sample SIS interviews, as well as the remaining re-dos and the rest of the Comp population. The schedule is as follows:

- Sample – August 15
- All Comps for CCBs with no re-dos – August 31
- All Comps for CCBs with re-dos – October 15

The re-dos were based not solely on statistical anomaly, but rather on anomalies that could not be explained upon further examination. In some cases this was due to incorrect information from a trainer; differing interpretation of areas such as Employment and Lifelong Learning; interviewer experience over time etc. There is no single cause.

If the re-dos are not complete by mid-October, Navigant and HSRI can adjust the overall impact analysis to account for the shortfall.

Concern was raised that some boards feel they are being asked to artificially lower their SIS scores. Kathy Athens echoed this with concerns noted among her constituents that the range of 98 to 102 for average scores may be artificial.

SIS Survey Results – The survey assessing interviewer case load and other SIS staffing issues was sent out in mid-May. Results are in but not yet analyzed. Results will be presented in August.

VI. Work Plan – Christine Thomas

There is nothing in writing at this point because CMS approval has not been gained for the proposed changes in timing. The tentative plan for task completion dates is as follows:

- SIS Sample to Navigant – August 15
- Residential and Day Levels – September 5
- State and Steering Committee review – September 20
- TAG group recommences work – mid-September
- 1st round of rates – October 5
- State sign-off on first round – October 19
- Steering Committee review – October 22
- Rates finalized for waiver application – November 2
- Appendices I and J (Cost Neutrality and Cost Calculation) – November
- Appendix C Working Group – August – October
- Appendix C – November
- Public Forums – December/January

The state will get the Residential and Day Level document from Navigant by September 5. It will take until the 13th to review it and then send it out to the Steering Committee for review by the 14th. It will be discussed at the 9/20 meeting.

TAG

Cami asked about the possibility of having an in-person TAG meeting. Christine indicated that it is very difficult to get Navigant because of the amount of travel time required. An alternate suggestion was to at least have the TAG members in one location, with Navigant on speakerphone. Christine also reminded the group that the TAG will not be starting from scratch – it will not revisit most of its policy or operational decisions. A written summary of policy and operational decisions that have already been made will be provided at the first meeting.

Geographic Modifiers

The TAG group recommended the use of geographic modifiers. However, due to operational constraints, at the CMS and HCPF levels, geographic modifiers will not be used for this waiver. John Taylor asked that the state consider adopting a policy supportive of geographic modifiers. Although he recognizes that operational obstacles will prevent them from being implemented right away, he believes that setting policy is an important step. Because this applies to more than the DD population, it is a larger issue that DHS and HCPF will need to explore. Fred agreed to include this on the agenda for his joint meeting with HCPF in August. He will provide an update at the August Steering Committee meeting.

VII. SLS Program Changes

During the June meeting it was agreed that Jay and Barb Ramsey would put together a “three-column” document identifying the universe of issues surrounding the SLS waiver. Members of the Steering Committee were urged to provide questions and issues to Barb by the end of July. However, in response to a request for agenda time at this meeting, an opportunity was provided to voice questions and concerns.

SLS SIS

When will the SIS be started for the SLS population? What add-ons will be included? Christine indicated that Kerry Stern is working on these as well as CDAS issues and will provide a draft at the August meeting of the Steering Committee.

When will the CCBs need to start administering the SIS to the SLS population? Kerry will report back in August.

During the discussion of the SIS survey, Christine indicated that there are so many interviewers (~150) that inter-rater reliability is a concern. Does the state anticipate that the number of interviewers will change for the SLS? Christine repeated her concern about inter-rater reliability but indicated that all of the solutions they had explored to rectify this cost money that the state cannot justify spending.

Once the first round of SIS interviews is completed for both the Comp and SLS populations, who will administer the ongoing SIS reviews? What will be the repeat testing requirements for these two populations?

Timing

A lot of issues were raised regarding the start date for the SLS changes, including the SIS implementation. Although in June there had been an agreement to provide a preliminary timeline in August, this does not appear to be feasible. The Division is understaffed and anticipating such significant changes at the leadership level (Fred) that it is limited in its ability to set a work plan or even identify the major tasks. The Division would like to get more closure on Comp before launching SLS.

Christine also felt it would be more appropriate to let the new director shape this. Although the group concurred that the new director would influence and shape the work on SLS, CCB and Advocacy representation felt that the fundamental tasks and identification of policy issues does not need to wait and in fact will facilitate a smoother transition for a new director. That said, staffing issues are still a reality. It was agreed that Jay and Barb will continue to work to identify the policy issues for August, but that a discussion on timing will wait until September or perhaps later. The outcome of the CMS meeting will also impact this.

July 2009 is when the waiver has to be renewed.

Other SLS assumptions to verify in August

Roger asked that the following issues be clarified in August:

- The Comp and SLS will have standardized rates
- The SIS will be used differently for the SLS population than the Comp population
- What is the CCB role in feeding data to the state for accomplishing the first two points?

VIII. Next Meetings

- August 23 – downtown
- September 20 – DDD, Ft. Logan, main floor conference room
- October 22 – downtown

IX. Public Comment

Liz Fuselier and Diane McNamara asked the following questions:

- How will the SIS training be done and monitored in the long term? Will it always be CCBs who do the SIS?
- There is a manual that provided guidance for the ULTC 100.2. Will there be something comparable for the SIS?
- How many SIS assessments were or will be re-done?
- Did the CCBs absorb the cost of the re-dos? Yes.

Kerry or Al will provide an update on these and other SIS-related questions raised during the meeting in August.

Hand-outs: Agenda

