

CMS Waiver Steering Committee Minutes -- FINAL

Date: September 27, 2007		Location: DDD: Fort Logan	
Present:		Carol Meredith	
Kathy Athens, Denver Options	X	Sarah Sills, Governor's Office	
Claire Brockbank, Segue Consulting	X	John Miles, DDD	
Chris Collins, Alliance	X	Julius Monge	
Mike Crane, DHS/DDD		John Nevins, Alliance/Imagine	X
John Daurio		Paul Niemann, HCPF	X
Fred DeCrescentis, DDD	X	Al Orlofsky, DDD	X
Kim Eisen, HCPF	X	Roxanne Pinneo, CCB Partners	X
Gerrie Frohne, Parent	X	Barb Prehmus, HCPF	
Ted Hernandez, Denver Options	X	Barb Ramsey, DDD	
Luke Huwar, Governor's Office		Jeremy Schupach, Alliance	
Roger Jensen, Alliance/Starpoint	X	Linda Skaflen, ARC Adams County	X
Jo Kammerzell, DD	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	

<p>I. Staffing Updates</p> <p>There were nine qualified applicants for the director's position. They are going through an elimination process that includes a written exam, oral boards, and interviews with a goal of selecting someone in late October/early November. Fred's last day will be December 21, 2007. Ann Swink has been hired to replace Christine. She starts October 1. She comes with thirty years of human services experience, mainly in the mental health arena. She has some Medicaid experience but will have a learning curve on DD issues.</p> <p>II. Comprehensive Services Waiver</p> <p>a. SIS Update (Al Orlofsky)</p> <p>18 of 20 CCBs have completed their Comp SIS assessments. TRE and Denver Options will be complete by October 15.</p>	

Roxanne asked if there would be financial assistance for those CCBs that had extensive redos. Christine and Fred indicated that it was a reasonable request and would be considered. Gerrie asked how many complaints/disagreements or requests for appeal had been filed? Al believes that there has been just one that reached the Division and this was during the early stages of the process. The CCBs at the table noted that there had been minimal issues raised at the CCB level.

SIS Survey Results – Al presented a synopsis of the results for each question on the survey. Kerry will provide a written report by the October Steering Committee meeting (10/22). John Taylor asked how the results were being used. Christine indicated that it has provided a “gut check” on issues that needed confirming, that the data will help in making budget assumptions, and that the information regarding the # of interviewers will be necessary for planning purposes.

Cami asked if the cost data some of the CCBs have submitted regarding administering the SIS had any surprises. Fred indicated that the documented costs were higher than DDD’s initial estimates, which were based off of AAIDD information and feedback from the CCBs. This is not too surprising given the lack of actual Colorado experience at the time the estimates were made. Based on this they are looking at budget readjustments.

b. Rates and HSRI Meeting (Claire Brockbank)

Claire walked through a document detailing the major decision points of a September 13 meeting between DDD and HCPF and HSRI. See attachment for details

- Skilled nursing will be rolled into the Residential Habilitation rates
- There will be six Residential Habilitation levels plus one for outliers and regional centers (RC). There will be three Day Services levels plus up to two for outliers.
- All 127 Tier Seven individuals will be assessed individually to determine proper assignment to levels.
- \$5.2 M General Fund dollars has been rolled forward for use in a 12-18 month transition fund to help smooth the redistribution of funds that will result from the new rates. Although this is recognized generally as hold harmless funds, the Division will have to request specific uses for the funds.
- HSRI will use the “almost complete data set” (all but Denver Options and TRE) for the next phase of their analysis. Once Denver Options and TRE have completed their SIS assessments, their data will be included.
- A “lay primer” as well as a technical document explaining the HSRI and Navigant work will be developed by DDD for public distribution. Currently, a point person has not been assigned nor has a date been set.

There was discussion regarding the decision to have all RCs set at Level 7. All other rates are being based on capabilities and needs rather than location. Some members of the Steering Committee urged DDD to treat the RCs much like the Tier 7s are being treated. Christine indicated that pragmatic budget realities had driven this policy and that they shared many of

these concerns from a policy perspective. The RCs have major indirect costs because of the additional infrastructure that is included in their costs (e.g. DDD, State Gov't.). It might require major General Fund backfill if a change resulted in lower rates. Christine also clarified for Linda Skaflen that the Tier 7 rate for the RCs is the average of all Tier 7 rates, which have a huge range. Thus a Tier 7 in the community will not likely match a Tier 7 in the RC. Al agreed with several members of the Steering Committee about the need to have residents of the RCs reflect current admissions criteria. Many do not and helping to reassign them more appropriately would allow some of those individuals who are truly eligible and on the wait list get needed services. DDD is working on this.

The end result of the discussion was a request from Chris Collins that the policy decision be reassessed on the basis of an analysis by HSRI of the RC data. This analysis will be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

Cami also requested that the Division seek review by “lay” people with limited exposure to the subject matter as a test of comprehensibility of the “lay primer”. Members of the Steering Committee supported this suggestion.

c. Policies Approved to Date (Christine Thomas)

Christine has completed this document but was unable to locate it on her drive in advance of the meeting. A copy will be distributed shortly. Members of the Steering Committee are urged to review this carefully for items that Christine overlooked or items that have not been publicly vetted. Because this will not be released to the public until it has gone through review, please let Claire know when you will get your comments on the document back to Christine and/or Claire.

d. Appendix C Working Group (Jo Kammerzell)

Jo Kammerzell and Kristie Braaten have been coordinating this working group. Its focus has been on Provider Qualifications and Definitions (as they relate to each other). Jo handed out a draft set of documents (Not for Distribution) and indicated that a final report would be presented to the Steering Committee at the October meeting. Much of the work has focused in the areas of Transportation, Behavioral Services and Dental. The requirement for a completed Colorado Bureau of Investigation check before employment can commence was also addressed in some depth. The Working Group is recommending that employment commence, but with a supervisory presence until the CBI results are in. This will prevent an unnecessary loss of qualified staff. Linda asked if “unsupervised” would be defined in the Appendix. Jo clarified that where possible the Waiver will use the most general language allowed; the Rules will be specific. This provides for greater flexibility as situations change.

e. Comp Work Plan (Christine Thomas)

Christine distributed a one-page work plan that represents the major outstanding work. This is extracted from the larger work

plan simply for ease of use. The group spent some times reviewing dates in the context of Steering Committee and public input. Some dates were changed to accommodate Steering Committee meetings.

III. SLS Work Plan – Al Orlofsky

A draft work plan was circulated. As with other CMSWSC Work Plans this is not for distribution. This is the first shot at a full work plan for the SLS waiver and is very much in draft form. A number of areas have been identified but with no formal dates or deliverables identified. In these cases, a date is provided that indicates when DDD will have further detail.

A few key dates that drive the whole effort are as follows:

- Commence SLS SIS assessments – November 2007
- Complete SLS SIS assessments – October 31, 2008
- Submit Waiver application – February 2, 2009
- Implement Waiver – July 1, 2009

The sample size will be the same for the SLS population (~500), but this represents a more significant portion of the SLS population so the results will be more robust.

Funding for SLS SIS

Questions were raised regarding funding for completion of the SIS assessments. Christine clarified that there is \$62,000 available for completing the sample, but funding was denied for the rest of the population. Cami expressed concern that resolution of resource issues could impact the overall timeline. She also expressed concern regarding the increased difficulty and complexity in scheduling interviews, planning for adequate training of trainers and interviewers and other logistical issues that will be different from SIS for Comp. John Taylor indicated that because doing the SIS is not in the PAR, it cannot be considered billable time. As such, the system has imposed limitations on internal reimbursement. Jay reminded the CCBs that they set their own SLS rates and should take into account all factors – including additional time constraints such as in-services, meetings, vacations etc. The SIS can be a part of this adjustment. John questioned whether it was reasonable to assume that all CCBs had in fact considered this in their rates. It was decided that:

- Fred will review the historical documents for clarifying language on rates
- This issue will be moved to the CCB Executives October meeting agenda
- Kerry's Work Group will be expanded to include administrative expertise

SLS SIS Add-on

Al distributed a copy of the DRAFT SLS Add-on questions. The SLS Add-on questions are predominantly directed at the

status of the person's unpaid primary caregiver. Al confirmed that waiver is the provider of last resort in response to an inquiry regarding whether CMS expects unpaid services to be factored into the rates. Al also confirmed that the core SIS assessment provides sufficient information on the care needs of the individual. The Add-ons used for the Comp SIS are not applicable or the information can now be gathered elsewhere (e.g. CCMS). The exception to this may be the questions on Diabetes. Al is looking into this. Please provide any comments to Kerry Stern by October 5, 2007.

SLS Caps vs. Rates

It was clarified that SLS is slightly different from Comp and the differences need to be reflected in the terminology used. SLS applies an overall cap for individuals, within that cap rates will be set for services. John Taylor asked if there is flexibility to negotiate payment rates. Jay replied that FFS sets the rates, not the individual CCBs

The November Steering Committee meeting will require time to discuss a number of the recommendations made by HSRI last December. DDD is scheduled to make a recommendation in late October on many of these. Members of the Steering Committee who wish to solicit input on the open issues should refer to the December 2006 HSRI Report. Time will also be set aside to cover Section III of the Work Plan – Decision Points Related to SLS PARs and Implementation of Consistent Day Habilitation and Supported Employment Rates.

IV. Updates

a. CMS Meeting – Fred DeCrescentis

CMS approved an implementation date of July 1, 2008 for Comp and July 1, 2009 for SLS. The rest of the meeting with CMS focused primarily on issue clarification around complaints CMS has received regarding the programs. These complaints were not described or discussed at the Steering Committee Meeting.

b. Geographic Modifiers

Fred handed out a document identifying the Division and HCPF's discussion regarding the possibility of adding a geographic modifier for all waivers administered by HCPF. The request was declined. See handout for further details.

c. Dental Bulletin – Jay Kauffman

A draft document for individuals to take with them to the dentists was distributed. The document provides clarification to dentists regarding coverage and payment options. It has also been distributed to the CCBs for comment. In addition, Barb Ramsey and Jay are meeting with the Colorado Dental Society to discuss bringing in more providers, to identify issues and generally build bridges with the dental community.

V. Next Meetings

- October 22 – 4th floor conference room, DHS downtown (1575 Sherman St), 9 - 12
- November 27– DDD, Ft. Logan, main floor conference room, 9 - 12
- December 10 – Denver Options, afternoon (actual time TBA). Note: this will be a public meeting similar to last December when HSRI/Navigant analysis will be presented

Please note: there was a discussion regarding the importance of selecting a meeting location that is accessible by public transportation. The Denver-area CCBs offered to provide assistance to individuals who have transportation obstacles that prevent them from attending the meeting. Please contact any of the local CCB individuals serving on the Steering Committee if you need such assistance.

VI. Public Comment

Diane McNamara had three comments:

1. She requested and received clarification regarding the SIS Add-ons. She cautioned about the use of the term add-on in two different contexts. It is used sometimes in the context of the additional medical and behavioral information collected that is not part of the index score and sometimes in the context of the additional questions DD has added to the SIS regarding diabetes and where a person lives.
2. Ms. McNamara also stated her strong support for having a lay reader review the document that will be developed explaining HSRI and Navigant’s work developing the Rating Methodologies
3. Will rates for the same service provided under Comp and SLS be the same? Jay indicated that for identical service definitions they would be the same under both waivers. Gordon Yates urged that before changing the SLS rates to match Comp, DDD should make sure the rates actually work and make sense for Comp.

Liz Fuselier declined to provide comments on the grounds that there was insufficient time. It should be noted that the meetings do not adjourn until all comments have been made.

Gordon Yates – see McNamara item 3 above.

Hand-outs for public distribution (attached)

- Agenda
- Action Items and Timeline from DDD/HCPF Meeting with HSRI, September 13, 2007
- Memo from Fred DeCrescentis, 9/27/07 regarding Geographic Modifiers
- Dental services provider document

	<p>Hand-outs not for distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive Service Work Plan• Comprehensive Service Waiver Appendices C-2 and C-3• SLS Work Plan• Draft SLS Add-on questions