

**ADMH Division of Developmental Disabilities
Coordinating Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Summary
May 4, 2021**

Participants: 240 Participants (DDD Subcommittee Members and Provider Network)

Voting Members Present:

Connie Batiste, ADMH/DDD Representative
DeAnna Ferguson, Ph.D., Other Providers–VOA Representative
Jo Poates, AADD Representative
Arvy Dupy, AADD Representative
Darryle Powell, Sr., Alabama DD Council Representative
Wade Reese, ACE/Arc Representative
Timothy Cooper, Arc of Alabama Representative
Jamie Herren, Alabama Council/MH Centers Representative
Ken Oliver, Alabama MH Centers Representative
Rita Wingard, ADMH/DDD Representative
Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama Representative

Voting Members Absent:

Jenny Lux, People First of Alabama Representative
Jane Cameron, Arc of Alabama Family Representative

1. Welcome and Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Associate Commissioner Pezent.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Oliver made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, and it was seconded by Mr. Arvy. The motion was approved.

3. Approval of April 6, 2021 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Reese to approve the meeting's minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliver and approved.

4. Associate Commissioner Updates

- Plans are in place for adult psychiatric crisis beds at Bullock County Hospital. The actual start date has not been decided. Dr. Belle will be providing technical assistance and the procedures for intake, via, Zoom. Once the actual crisis beds are in place, everyone will be notified. It was pointed out that crisis beds for children are important as well.
- Ms. Sawyer is currently preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) Announcement regarding "Our Kids". Ms. Sawyer has also been given the role of Special Project Coordinator for the Community Waiver Program (CWP).
- The vendor selection will be made on the new DDD Information System by June 1, 2021.

5. COVID-19

Appendix K Update: Ms. Wingard provided an update. The adjustments for Appendix K are currently at Medicaid.

Vaccinations: Dr. Landers, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), presented a brief update regarding the vaccinations. She briefly talked about the efficacy, the side effects, and about how the vaccine can reduce the risk of COVID hospitalizations and deaths. Currently, individuals 16 years of age and older can be vaccinated. Alabama is not nearly where it needs to be with administering the vaccination; however, ADPH is working on a plan to vaccinate broadly. Currently, there are only 1.1 million Alabamians vaccinated. It is extremely important that individuals in congregate area receive the vaccination.

ADPH is working on developing a program to provide vaccinations to homebound individuals and their caregivers. They have a protocol for vaccinating homebound individuals with home health. For protection, caregivers of homebound individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated. There are certain pharmacies who are willing to go out and vaccinate. Please call Lisa Pezent, ADPH, at 334-206-5123 to get more information. Questions were entertained.

COVID Funding: Mr. Slate provided an update. Once approved, the residential rates will be backdated to March 1, 2021. Providers should continue to bill as usual and were asked to send their staff recruitment plans for DSPs, nursing, QEs and non-administrative staff to the regional office fiscal managers.

It was clarified that the 30% increase for residential replace the 19% increase to assist with staff recruitment and retention.

6. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

ID/LAH Waivers: Ms. Wingard provided an update. The submitted amendments were approved April 20, 2021. The next set of waivers amendments, which address concerns about the different type of provider services will hopefully be submitted to Medicaid within the next couple of weeks.

CWP: Mr. LaPorte provided an update. Feedback was received from CMS a couple of weeks ago. The CWP waiver approval from CMS has not been received yet.

7. Support Coordination (SC): Francilla Allen provided an update. SC agencies were reminded to use the second version for Person Centered Planning (PCP), not the first version. The next PCP Training will be held May 11-13, and May 18. PCP guidance will be communicated this week. There is a PCP informational video on the website for staff and families. Also, there is collaboration with ANOVA consultants in connection with the Strategic Planning Committee. This committee is comprised of direct services providers, individuals, advocates, and ADMH/DD staff. The goal is to work on the plan and ensure it aligns with ADMH/DDD Operational Guidelines. There will be training on May 21 at 10:00am. The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Rights training video is in the process of being posted to ADMH/DDD website.

8. Office of Certification: Connie Batiste provided an update. The Certification Assessment Tools Operational Guidelines will be completed next week. Certification is still in the process of working to fill three staff vacancies in Region 5 and Region 4

9. Office of Community Services: Amy Warren provided an update. Staff is in the process of reviewing the HCBS validation data. There is an enormous amount of data to review, and staff is trying to ensure the data is valid. Regional offices will be sending a request to providers regarding the status of their compliance plans. The community services directors collected data regarding the status of day programs being opened or

closed. To date, 75 of the 115 day programs have reopened, and 40 day programs are still closed.

10. Alabama Medicaid: Mattie Jackson provided an update. There was a discussion with CMS regarding Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) and updated guidance was received. The billing procedures for the EPSDT services for children do not need to be modified.

11. Advocacy Updates

- a. **People First:** Ms. Ellis provided an update. There is a new date for the Young Emergent meeting, and a zoom invite will be communicated. People First is working on how to tell your story for a self-advocate network. They are also working on recruiting peer specialists and councils and starting discussion with the eColumbus group. Family training will be provided soon. The first training went very well to assist people with significant disabilities to become peer specialist.
- b. **ADAP:** There was no update.
- c. **ACDD:** Mr. Powell provided an update. ACDD received the notice of award for the COVID-19 vaccination/education grant. The Council received the green light to move forward. The draft plan will be posted on the website for 45 days for public comments, and the deadline is June 2, 2021. RFPs will be posted soon. In regard to the ABLE account, the Senate Bill is progressing toward the committee.
- d. **ADMH/ADVOCACY:** Ms. Durbin provided an update. Advocates continue to go to the DDD group homes. Staff is conducting monitoring, via, tablet, but advocates are still making site visits in some homes. The advocates are planning to visit several day programs.

12. Other Business

There was no new business.

13. Announcements

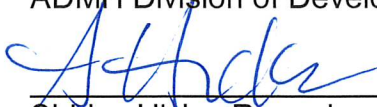
Dr. Ferguson reminded everyone about the August 11-13 Conference. More detailed information is forthcoming.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021.



Terry L. Pezent, Associate Commissioner
ADMH Division of Developmental Disabilities



Shirley Hicks, Recorder
ADMH Division of Developmental Disabilities