

## DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force Meeting Summary

A meeting of the DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force was held 1:30 pm August 4, 2020, via Zoom.

### Members Present:

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| Connie Batiste, ADMH                 | Mattie Jackson, Alabama Medicaid Agency        |
| Ken Oliver, Glenwood/Alabama Council | Terry Pezent, ADMH/DD                          |
| Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama | Zina May, ADMH Advocacy                        |
| Jo Poates, ID 310 Boards             | James Tucker, ADAP                             |
| Wade Reese, Ace of ARC               | Arvy Dupuy, ID 310 Boards                      |
| Carla Stallworth, Other Providers    | Anne Riddle, The Arc of Alabama                |
| Kathy Sawyer, ADMH/DD Consultant     | Susan Klingel, ACE/Arc                         |
| Vivian Warren, ADMH                  | DeAnna Ferguson, Other Providers               |
| Jerry Pike, Eagles' Wings            | Donna Foster, Future Living Community Services |
| Carrie Bearden, BHAA                 | Jamie Herren, Alabama Council on MH Centers    |

### Members Absent:

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| Kevin LaPorte, Region III Community Services |  |
| Karen Willis                                 |  |
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### Guests:

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| Byron White, ADMH/DD |  |
| Andy Slate, ADMH/DD  |  |
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### Recorder:

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| Velma McElrath |  |
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### Welcome and Introductions:

Kathy Sawyer, Consultant with the Alabama Department of Mental Health, Division of Development Disabilities, called the meeting to order and welcomed task force members and guests.

**Task Force Chair Report:** Kathy Sawyer provided the following updates:

- Ms. Sawyer started the meeting by asking members of the task force their thoughts on continuing the meetings of the DD Stakeholder Transition Task Force Meeting since many of the task force members attend the DD-subcommittee and then attend this meeting back to back. Therefore, she wanted to make sure there was no duplication and wanted feedback from the members to see if these meetings are helpful and should be continued or not.

There was consensus of the Task Force members to continue these meetings on a quarterly basis. The members indicated they like and appreciate the separate identity and focus on this HCBS Stakeholder Task Force and thus, would like to continue this venue in terms of the HCBS compliance of the work going forward.

- Ms. Sawyer made the members aware of the letter from the Alabama Medicaid relative to the CMS extension of the deadline to March 17, 2023 for the HCBS compliance work. The letter from Dr. Abrams, Long Term Care Division, acknowledged the extension, however, encouraged all to stay focus and continue work towards compliance.

A task force member inquired about if the Associate Commissioner and staff would possibly be amending internal dates and what the road map would look like at this time. Ms. Sawyer stated she would share this concern with the Associate Commissioner, however at this time there has been no expressed desire to push back changes, particularly on work groups and work plans. Also, there are continued monthly discussions with the Alabama Medicaid Agency on the State Transition Plan regarding the date of when Medicaid hopes to have the plan out for public comment. The DD Division also has some further work that needs to be completed around the validation and transition plans regarding settings subject to heightened scrutiny, which is a big part of the State Transition Plan.

**Associate Commissioner's update:** Florine Croxton provided the following updates on behalf of Terry Pezent:

- Appreciation for efforts to continue the work around Home and Community Based Settings Rule
- Although CMS has pushed the date of full compliance out a year to 2023 and although COVID-19 has presented barriers for most providers to fully implement

the intent of the rule, DDD will continue its monitoring of Providers' Transition to Compliance Plans

- Timelines for certain milestones related to compliance are noted in the letter from Medicaid
- Please be conscientious of any variance to rules and ensure reasons for the variance is documented
- DDD Staff are expected to work with the provider to navigate concerns providers have with compliance so please, reach out to DDD Staff if there are questions and if there are still questions after you do reach out, email Terry or Amy and they will find a way to work with you
- DDD encourages providers to take advantage of this additional time to consider how they may come into compliance by offering more services in the community, such as those that are hourly like Community Day, Community Experience, as well as, services like Personal Care, In-home/Out-of-home Respite
- Noted are those providers who have used this unique time we're in to explore a new business models for service delivery that are similar to 'services without walls'
- Also encourage exploration of Self-directed services to meet current needs as families who may not trust their loved ones to the care of others and prefer those, they know well to provide care and supports. During COVID-19, some of the requirements for hiring staff are waived, which allows families more opportunities to provide direct care
- DDD appreciates the support of AMA. Their guidance and expertise have been invaluable throughout this process
- If you have questions or concerns about compliance with the rule, please feel to let us know.

**Work group Reports:** Ms. Sawyer asked each of the workgroup chairs to give an overview of their work since the last meeting. The following reports were given:

**De-confliction: Case management:** Kathy Sawyer provided the following updates:

- The work group met on June 16, 2020. The next meeting has not been scheduled, waiting to see how things unfold over the next couple of months.
- Since the last report there were 9 agencies that remain conflicted, three of the nine agencies have approved plans to deconflict their services. Two of those agencies (Vivian B. Adams and Spectra Care) have continued to work on their plans and are showing progress and have been in communication with the Associate Commissioner to advise her on their status. One of the three, DDD has not heard from or have any report of their status (Autauga/Elmore). There are six remaining agencies that are conflicted who have no plans for deconfliction, other than the request for the use of firewalls. However, Highland

Health has been in communication with the Associate Commissioner about plans to deconflict their services with the support of another entity.

- On July 24, 2020, the department issued its job announcements for the position for Conflict Free Support Coordinators. The report received on last Friday from HR, indicated that as of July 31<sup>st</sup> there have been at least 100 applications received for these positions. HR will have the applications reviewed by August 7<sup>th</sup> to determine eligibility.
- The deconfliction work plan was included in the amendment waiver.

**Certification update: Connie Batiste provided the following updates:**

- All documentation has been received from Maxwell, sub-contractor, and training will be starting soon.
- Kittie Castle sub-contractor at Cahaba should be getting their application soon to review and start process.
- There was no fiscal update; however, Ms. Sawyer asked Andy to provide an update on the billing for case management services by mid-September.

**Support Coordination/Person Centered Planning: Francilla Allen provided the following updates:**

- The department partnered with Inclusa to develop the person-centered planning (PCP) assessment tool, plan and conversation guide, which were created specifically for Alabama.
- The PCP assessment tool, and conversation guide were shared with the PCP Workgroup during meetings on April 14<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The members of the PCP workgroup provided feedback about the assessment tool, plan and conversation guide. Their feedback was incorporated into the edits of the documents.
- The final version of the PCP Assessment tool, plan and conversation guide will be shared at the next PCP Workgroup meeting, Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am via Zoom.
- The PCP training will begin in August with the DD staff to receive the training first. Then during the month of September all Support Coordinators are required to attend the PCP Training. Therefore, by October 1, 2020, all Support Coordinators will be trained to write the PCP and facilitate the team meeting.
- It was also reported that there will be on-going training for the Support Coordinators and the DD staff.

There was a question from the taskforce regarding the training for providers: Ms. Allen informed the members there have been discussions with Dr. Teresa McCall regarding a two-day Person-Centered Thinking Training for providers.

James Tucker shared with the members that ADAP has received a grant from the DD Council. This grant is for training regarding the HCBS Waivers to audiences throughout the state in the next year.

There was also concern expressed from a task force member that training is needed for providers other than the Person-Centered Thinking training as providers need to understand their role is to facilitate services and not take ownership of a person. Ms. Sawyer charged Connie Batiste, Dr. Teresa McCall and Francilla Allen to look at the provider training module to see if it needs to be updated. However, Ms. Sawyer advised this training should not be mandated at this point, because providers should be willing to participate in this training.

**Residential and Non-Residential: Amy Warren provided the following updates:**

- The work group is continuing the virtual monitoring.
- She also reported they are currently working on the site's quarterly data to provide to Medicaid. A meeting is being scheduled with Medicaid this week to discuss reporting and to make sure everyone is on the same page.

**Education: Byron White and Zina May provided the following updates:**

- Ms. May reported Malissa Valdes-Hubert has agreed to help the group on social media ideas.
- Ms. Sawyer asked the work group to provide recorded sessions of the virtual trainings by George Neal. (Mr. White stated they are working with IT to update Mr. Neal's equipment to start this process.)

**Next Steps:**

- The membership list will be reviewed to make sure there is representation from those areas where there has been no participation in the last several meetings.
- The work and focus will continue on the HCBS rule regardless of the CMS extension.
- Work will be rolling out over the next several weeks around the Person-Centered Planning.

- Residential/Day work group and staff will be working to clean up the validation and transition plan data that is reported to Medicaid.
- Education and Advocacy will continue with virtual opportunities to share educational information. Also, looking forward to hearing more from George Neal on what he will bring to the table and the work that James Tucker has brought forth to the task force.
- The task force will meet on a quarterly basis. The goal will be the same; work being transparent, and members having the opportunity to share, advise and give feedback to the DDD as it works towards HCBS compliance.

**Next meeting date:**

Ms. Sawyer asked to hold off scheduling the next meeting until there was substantive HCBS information to share.