

DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force Meeting Summary

A meeting of the DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force was held 10:00 am August 25, 2021 via Zoom.

Members Present:

Connie Batiste, ADMH	Terry Pezent, ADMH/DD
Ken Oliver, Glenwood/Alabama Council	DeAnna Ferguson, Other Providers
Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama	James Tucker, ADAP
Carla Stallworth, Other Providers	Jamie Herren, Alabama Council on MH Centers
Wade Reese, Ace of ARC	Mattie Jackson, Alabama Medicaid Agency
Kathy Sawyer, ADMH/DD Consultant	
Jo Poates, ID 310 Boards	
Carrie Bearden, BHAA	
Donna Foster, Future Living Community Services	
Zina May, ADMH Advocacy	

Members Absent:

Anne Riddle, The Arc of Alabama	Arvy Dupuy, ID 310 Boards
Jerry Pike, Eagles' Wings	Vivian Warren, ADMH

Guests:

Chris Stewart	Jenny Lux
Delshonda Thomas	Wade Reese
Barbara Hughley	LeVander Towner
Andy Slate	Lee Prestige
Kimberly Holyfield	Ziva Hatcher
Rebecca Wright	Byron White
Elizabeth Hathaway	
Riyyah James	
Francilla Allen	

Recorder:

Velma McElrath	
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Welcome and Introductions:

Kathy Sawyer called the meeting to order and welcomed task force members and guests.

Agenda and Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed. The agenda for the meeting was also approved.

Task Force Chair Report: Kathy Sawyer stated this meeting would be focused on updates regarding the HCBS validation data, remediation compliance efforts, conversation regarding the heightened scrutiny proposal and State Medicaid Agency on the status of the Statewide Transition Plan.

Associate Commissioner update's: Terry Pezent provided the following updates:

- The staff has been working closely with Medicaid to define language in the Statewide Transition Plan and to gather data on the non-compliance and compliance settings for the plan.
- A letter was sent to providers on August 24th that received a great deal feedback regarding the language. Terry informed the task members this letter was a reminder for providers to review their transition to compliance plan and apologized for the confusion. However, she did understand the monitors have not had a chance to go out and do any additional on-site monitoring due to COVID.

HCBS Validation Data update: Kathy Sawyer provided an overview of the Validation Summary Report as of July 1st. She explained the data regarding the review, validation findings and compliance status. She stated that although more work may have been completed around the remediation, it will not reflect in this report because it was simply a review of the data as July 1st. The deadline for compliance is 2023; however, the state's date is September 30, 2022. The purpose of an earlier date is for providers who, as of September 30th, are not close to compliance, DDD will have to start transitioning individuals out of the non-compliant settings.

Kathy also discussed some right issues which were still a concern and should have been resolved some time back; specifically, individual's access to their money. Amy Warren is completing an analysis the deficiencies to determine most prevalent deficiencies. Once completed, the QE staff will identify what areas need to be worked on in order for DDD to provide training and other needed technical assistance for providers.

The following recommendations and concerns were discussed:

- It was recommended that documentation should be made available to the monitors before visits. Also, announced monitoring visits should be made so that providers can have whatever information the monitor needs.
- Providers are having issues with the representative's payee and rules for Social Security. Kathy deferred to James Tucker, ADAP for mandatory technical assistance training for both the staff and providers. Also, staff and providers should submit questions/topics to the QE staff they would like to specifically be addressed at these trainings.

Remediation/Compliance Planning: Connie Batiste provided an overview of the planning process. She stated there were 37 questions reviewed from the validation tool

from which Amy Warren completed an analysis and found that 50% or greater of providers or settings were out of compliance. Therefore, the QE staff is in the process of developing technical assistance and training for all providers. Trainings should begin in September and will be offered by region. They will be recorded and placed on the website to be reviewed at any time. Kathy made the recommendation to reach out to the providers and to see what type of assistance is needed.

Heightened Scrutiny Proposal and Maine Model update: Kathy Sawyer provided an overview of the heightened scrutiny proposal and model that has been proposed to Medicaid to be presented to CMS. She explained that heightened scrutiny are settings that would be reported or submitted to CMS by Medicaid to look at in terms of non-compliance relative to the settings that are isolated. The Maine Model sets out certain questions and probes that are specific to isolating settings, which should be reported for heightened scrutiny. Kathy asked for a vote from the task force to approve or reject this proposal. The proposal was accepted to be submitted to Medicaid, by unanimous approval of the task force members.

Medicaid Update on State Transition Plan (STP): Rebecca Wright provided the following updates:

- The STP timeline has been discussed for quite a while; however, they are getting closer since they have now received the validation data from DDD.
- Work on the STP is ongoing and doubt that it can be completed in a week. However, it will be submitted sometime in September. She also noted that if the heightened scrutiny proposal is accepted, they will have to go back through the data and determine which setting should be reported to CMS.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Time: TBA