

DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force Meeting Summary

A meeting of the DD Stakeholder Transition Plan Task Force was held at 1:30 pm, October 26, 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	Mattie Jackson, Alabama Medicaid Agency
Carrie Bearden, BHAA	Donna Foster, Future Living Community Services
Kathy Sawyer, ADMH/DD Consultant	Delshonda Thomas
Lasundra Foster	

Members Absent:

Anne Riddle, The Arc of Alabama	Jo Poates, ID 310 Boards
Jerry Pike, Eagles' Wings	Zina May, ADMH Advocacy
Vivian Warren, ADMH	Jamie Herren-Retired
Jana Haggard	

Guests:

Lavender Thomas	Andy Slate
Francilla Allen	Rebecca Wright
Barbara Hughley	Elizabeth Hataway
Florine Croxton	Ginger Wettingfeld
Wade Reese	Ziva Hatcher
Riyyah James	Kimberly Holyfield
Barbara Hughley	LeVander Towner

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.

Associate Commissioner Update: Terry Pezent provided the following updates:

- Staff still is engaged, following up and providing updates regarding HCBS compliance.
- Technical assistance training has been scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2021 at 10:00 am for providers.

Task Force Chair Report: Kathy Sawyer provided an overview of the validation data on behalf of Amy Warren. Amy prepared a report that provided data as of October 1st for both the residential and non-residential settings relative to HCBS compliance. Three groups were identified in this report: residential settings that were established before March 2014, new residential setting established after March 2014 and combined residential settings.

Notification to Providers: On September 23rd a letter was sent to providers giving the status of all of their settings, in terms of whether they were in compliance or not. A follow up letter was sent out by the Associate Commissioner on October 13th which spoke specifically to the new settings. This letter was the initial notification of how new settings were being treated, the plan going forward and a 90-day timeframe by which they would come into compliance with the HCBS settings rule. A third letter was also sent out on October 20th, specifically for providers who had new settings, which specified the settings that were not deemed in compliance after March 2014.

Training and Technical Assistance Plans: Connie Batiste provided an overview of the training and technical assistance plans for HCBS compliance. A presentation will be provided at the providers' meeting. The QE staff will be sending out notifications to each region for training. They will have their own sessions and will have several presentations of the PowerPoint. After the training, they will be able to call for one-on-one for technical assistance, if needed. She also encouraged everyone to go through the training early and not wait until February. A recorded training will eventually be available to listen to at any time.

Connie also reported that she has reached out to Barbara Lawrence regarding the training for representative payee but, as yet no training date confirmed as she is still waiting on a response.

State Transition Plan Update: Medicaid representatives reported that the public comment period is currently going on and will end on Friday, October 29, 2021. Two comments have been received and Medicaid is preparing responses to those comments. Once the information has been finalized, a list of heightened scrutiny settings will be sent to CMS by the end of the year (December). These are only the settings that are expected to be in compliance by March 2023.

New/Other Business:

- Kathy reported that all work groups are asked to submit an end of the year report regarding the work accomplished based on your work plan for FY21(October 1st -September 30th). Work groups should also meet to develop a revised/edit work plan for any work the group anticipates addressing in the current fiscal year (FY22).
- Kathy also reported that CMS has granted approval to Alabama for the Community Wavier Program.

Next meeting:

November

TBD: Date, Time