

COUNCIL ON HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES

June 11, 2014

COUNCIL

Roberta Yoder (late – 11:30)
Kim Spading
Phyllis Hansell
Alexa Heffernan
Guy Richardson (absent)
Mark Anderson
Mark Peltan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Representative Joel Fry (absent)
Representative Lisa Heddens (absent)
Senator Amanda Ragan (absent)
Senator Jack Whitver (absent)

STAFF

Charles Palmér	Amy McCoy
Jean Slaybaugh	Chad Dahm
Nancy Freudenberg	Jen Harbison
Brenda Freshour-Johnston	Harry Rossander
Jennifer Vermeer	Wendy Rickman

GUESTS

Representative David Heaton
Dennis Tibben, Iowa Medical Society
Sara Allen, Iowa Hospital Association
Erin Davison-Rippey, PPH
Aaron Todd, Senate Democrats

Mark Peltan, Chair, called the Council meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the South East Conference Room on the 1st floor of the Hoover State Office Building.

ROLL CALL

All Council members were present with the exception of Yoder, who arrived at 11:30, and Richardson, who was absent.

RULES

Nancy Freudenberg, Bureau of Policy Coordination, presented the following emergency rules.

R-1. Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Implements a 10% rate increase for emergency medical services in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 41 and 45.

A motion was made by Hansell to approve and seconded by Heffernan. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

R-2. Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Implements changes to reimbursement methodology for Community Mental Health Centers in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 39, 40, 45, 61, and 62.

There was discussion on the new rate reimbursement methodology proposed in the rule. Spading asked for the background on the EMS rate increases. Vermeer explained the background and noted that the Legislature understood that EMS providers were not reimbursed appropriately and as a result acted through legislation both this year and last year by increasing the rates by 10 % each year.

A motion was made by Anderson to approve and seconded by Spading. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

R-3. Amendments to Chapter 156, Foster Care. Implements a change in methodology for Foster Group Care rates in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 43 and 45.

A motion was made by Hansel to approve and seconded by Anderson. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

R-4. Amendments to Chapter 170, Child Care Assistance. Expands Child Care Assistance criteria by allowing a parent to work part-time and attend school part-time for at least 28 hours in the aggregate and remain eligible for child care assistance.

A motion was made by Anderson to approve and seconded by Hansell. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Nancy Freudenberg presented rules for Notice of Intended Action. Freudenberg noted that all of the rule amendments being noticed were the “regularly” filed versions of the emergency rules just discussed and adopted.

N-1 Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Implements a 10% rate increase for emergency medical services in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 41 and 45.

N-2 Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Implements changes to reimbursement methodology for Community Mental Health Centers in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 39, 40, 45, 61, and 62.

N-3 Amendments to Chapter 156, Foster Care. Implements a change in methodology for Foster Group Care rates in accordance with 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2463, sections 43 and 45.

N-4 Amendments to Chapter 170, Child Care Assistance. Expands Child Care Assistance criteria by allowing a parent to work part-time and attend school part-time for at least 28 hours in the aggregate and remain eligible for child care assistance.

A motion was made by Anderson to approve the noticed rules and seconded by Heffernan. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There was additional general discussion on Foster Group Care rates and methodologies. Director Palmer asked that Wendy Rickman put together a one page fact sheet on the rates and methodologies used.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hansell to approve the minutes of May 14, 2014 and seconded by Spading. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jean Slaybaugh, Chief Financial Officer, and Jen Harbison, Policy Advisor, presented an overview of the Department budget as provided in legislation. Slaybaugh highlighted several entries on the spreadsheet that was handed out to Council and visitors.

- General Administration was funded at status quo from the previous year. There were a few adjustments in certain areas but overall status quo in funding.
- Field was funded at a level approximately \$1.5 million less than the previous year. Carry forward language was provided in the appropriation bill but was vetoed. The Department will be able to manage within the appropriation amount.

- Child Support was funded as requested.
- Facilities were also funded as requested with few exceptions.

There was some discussion on compensatory education. Director Palmer noted that DHS and the Department of Education (DOE) are working together to address this situation. Director Palmer went on to note that Eldora was fully funded with an additional amount to cover the extension of the PALS (Preparation for Adult Living) program for students graduating from the facility.

- The Department, as well as the nation as a whole, continues to see a decline in the number of Family Investment Program caseloads. Director Palmer stated that the primary reason for the decrease in program usage is that the economy is doing well at this time. The five year lifetime limit for benefits has not been seen as having a major impact on the program over time. Director Palmer's chief concern in this arena was in regard to the trend that persons on the Family Investment Program were taking and holding low income jobs that have little chance of forward momentum. Those low income jobs tend to be the first jobs to be eliminated in times of economic downturns.
- Slaybaugh stated that the State Supplementary Assistance Program is funded below the Department's current projection. However, the legislature provided sufficient carry forward language.
- Slaybaugh stated that Medicaid was projected to have a \$32 million shortfall for SFY 2014. While there have been changes in specific line items, she noted this amount is consistent with the projected deficit in the medical assistance appropriation when the session closed in 2013. She stated that the Department is working with the Department of Management to address options for covering the shortfall. One of these options, Magellan excess claims, will increase the projected deficit in SFY2015. Slaybaugh noted that this leaves medical assistance funded at a \$45/46 million deficit for SFY2015.
- Representative Heaton asked Slaybaugh if the shortfall included a projected decrease in FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) funding. Both Slaybaugh and Vermeer pointed out that the projected shortfall included the known decrease in FMAP and that an additional 1% reduction is projected in the next year. Representative Heaton mentioned that everyone should remain cognizant of the amount of shortfall and where monies might be found to erase the Medicaid funding deficit.
- Representative Heaton recognized the significant contributions Ms. Slaybaugh and other Department members made during the legislative session this year.
- Jen Harbison then reviewed the bills and results of the 2014 Legislative Session.

She handed out two letters from Secretary of State Matt Shultz reviewing the outcomes of the legislative session and the Governor's review including items that were vetoed and items that were approved.

DEMONSTRATION OF DHS WEBSITE

Amy McCoy, Public Information Officer and Brenda Freshour-Johnston, Information Specialist, gave an overview of the new DHS website for Council.

Anderson noted that some websites were equipped with a view button that modified colors to accommodate for those viewers who are color blind. He noted that it might be a good improvement. Anderson also wanted to know if there would be a special page on the website for Council activities, handouts, agendas, etc. Freshour-Johnston was able to bring up that site for review.

DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE UPDATE

The Differential Response program was implemented in January 2014. Wendy Rickman, Division Administrator, provided a handout entitled "Differential Response System Information." The handout is broken out by actions taken in the "life of the case."

Highlights discussed included:

- The number of intakes rejected is increasing. It is important to note that the intakes are not being rejected inappropriately based on reviews of actions taken.
- Heffernan asked to visit the Central Intake unit. Several other Council members were also interested in visiting, potentially in coordination with a meeting at the DHS River Place Offices. Hansell noted that her visit was very interesting and also that space in the unit was limited.
- Rickman noted that the next set of data would be available in the early Fall (possibly September) timeframe. That data set will be more comprehensive and will also look at outcomes and measures.
- Generally speaking, the program is meeting the projected expectations that were established during the program's development. Rickman also stated that the Department was still reviewing all of the assessment data carefully to ensure that any trends or issues are properly noted and addressed.
- Peltan asked if the legalization of Marijuana oil-based products has impacted the program in any way. Rickman replied that it was still too early to determine, but that she was aware that other states are beginning to factor legalization of marijuana into their assessments and outcomes.

Director Palmer provided a quick overview of the history behind the Differential Response program and its development. He noted that the general feeling of the public was that the registry had become a barrier to jobs and placements. As a result of that perception, the Child Abuse registry and program were reviewed and differential response developed. Since the inception of Differential Response, the perception that the Registry is a barrier has decreased. In fact, fewer people are being placed on the registry because fewer cases are actually being founded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Palmer provided a summary of the legislative session results:

- Several pieces of legislation were approved by the Governor including action on the waiver waiting list. The Governor also approved the Mental Health "Offset" language found in the Department's appropriation bill
- Regional Mental Health organizations are gearing up and 28E agreements are being signed. Overall status going into the program is pretty good with financials also in good shape at this time.
- There will be an interim committee working on children's mental health services and as the work continues, he anticipates more attention on their important work will follow. He also noted that Autism will be considered within that committee's discussions.
- DHS staff continue to complete the analysis and implementation of the budget for the next fiscal year as established by the legislature and the Governor, as well as begin the budget planning for next fiscal year. The next series of DHS Council meetings will focus on those budget projections and discussions.

COUNCIL MEMBERS UPDATE

- Yoder stated that she had visited a "mainstream" home for 5 persons (aged 22-27) in West Des Moines. She was pleased with the visit.
- Spading stated that there are new therapies on the market for Hepatitis C that have substantial costs involved (up to \$1000 per tablet). Director Palmer noted that DHS is aware of these new treatments and continues to monitor this situation. Representative Heaton also mentioned that the Department needs to continue to watch for changes and updates to costly treatments for Hemophilia.
- Hansell appreciated the tour of Broadlawns at the last Council meeting. She affirmed that site visits are outstanding ways to get an idea of treatments, providers and services that flow through the Department. Hansell then noted that the National Autism Association and Google are working together to map the genomes associated with Autism. This is exciting work that has potential to provide tremendous assistance to those with an Autism diagnosis.

- Peltan noted that activities associated with Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's) are increasing rapidly. He also stated that Integrated Health Homes (IHH) are for more than just mental health issues. Director Palmer asked that this topic be placed on the agenda of a future Council meeting.

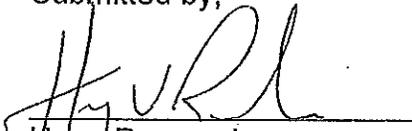
Representative Heaton reported that he was very interested to hear and participate in the Council meeting and discussion. He stated that sometimes there is a perception that the legislature or government is disconnected and everyone involved needs to stay alert as we go forward. Finally, Representative Heaton noted that the next budget process will be further complicated by the potential reduction of funding from a decrease in the FMAP.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Anderson to adjourn and seconded by Yoder. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Council adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by,



Harry Rossander