

## **Dauphin County ID/A Committee Agenda**

**June 3, 2025**

- Introduction
  - Attending: Nancy Sajeski, Veronica Supan, Mary deCoen, Chai Power, Amber Wolferd, Betty Formata, Glen Dunbar
- Approval of last meeting minutes
  - Motioned and seconded

### **Support Coordination Updates:**

- CMU dba- Pathways Forward
  - One staffer on medical leave is back. Two people have started since the last meeting two young people. They are hoping to add five more SCs and a supervisor by end of calendar year.
  - When they get to full capacity, it's a 50 case per person caseload. Right now its 65-75 cases per person, bilingual SCs has a smaller caseload due to higher work capacity.
- CCR - Center for Community Resources
  - CCR just hired a new SC
- ECCM - Expert Community Care Management
  - ECCM is working on hiring new SCs
- We continue to offer resources. New cases are mostly being pushed to CCR and ECCM. New parents get information on all 3 providers. It is likely that word of mouth is lacking for certain providers. The public forum on June 12<sup>th</sup> may help with that.
  - Committee member suggests mentioning the caseloads of SCs during the forum so that parents can understand why there may be delays from SCs to get in touch with families. Another committee member mentions that parents can be encouraged to call/email their SCs often to stay in touch.
- Dauphin County AE Updates
  - End of the fiscal year – ISPs, yearly report, base contracts

- Dauphin County Human Services which includes MHADP/the AE is looking into moving buildings.
  - ISPs will be finalized by the end of June. Committee member asks why ISPs come up in September, and Amber explains that the annual review update happens in September, and pertains to budgetary concerns.
    - Question: When do caregivers find out/have input in decisions regarding ISPs? ISPs are reviewed once a year. It happens during SC monitoring also. It is somewhat of a judgement call, depending on circumstances.
  - Question: Do these reviews lead into the performance-based contracting?
    - Answer: Yes, since Dauphin County must look every quarter at where money is going and where the waivers are, to help justify new or ongoing waivers. The threshold for expenses are 80%. If there are transitioning children, they look at the waivers and budget to account for new waivers. Waivers have to be justified by the numbers and the units.

#### ODP Updates

- New fiscal year – implementing -performance based contracting
- There is discussion on the new system being implemented for waivers. Formerly, counties managed budgets instead of waivers. This is a return to that system. AE will be scrutinizing more because there is a year to work out the kinks and understand the process. It is similar to Manage Care. ODP is not a medical model, and that is the difficult part in working with home healthcare agencies, as ODP is not healthcare. That is why it is coming back to the counties to be overseen. AE has 6 potential candidates for another utilization slot, and they will be interviewing those 6 people and hopefully pick someone to bring in for waiver management.
- Question: What does this new person decide? Answer: They will be looking at plans to determine things like, is this the right service, the right goals, etc. Ex. Someone has respite services but has not done anything with them for 3 years, so moving into 26-27 year AE looks at unused services and removes it. There are many people sitting on

services that are not used. If someone does need a service, it can be added.

- Question: How much experience does this candidate have? Answer: We are requiring a writing sample for questions in the interview. All candidates have SC/ODP experience, and have been in some sort of human services system.
- 

### **July 12<sup>th</sup> Event – East Shore Library**

Updates – Amber should bring a projector from Pathways Forward. Glen has a projector and a laptop. Nancy sent an email to the speakers but did not hear back. Mary has been in contact with all the speakers.

What are we planning to cover? Mary and Amber have been discussing it; Ed has a powerpoint about how to get onto the waiver, and PF will talk about their programs. There needs to be time for questions, but specific questions could potentially be handled with a survey where a family can leave their question and contact information. Several committee members did not get information emailed out by Amber, she will check and send it again.

Are there other media sources to post about the forum? PF can put it on their Facebook. There are concerns about getting the information out and how many people will attend. It was sent to list serves for schools, UCP on their facebook and events page, and community links. Tammy sent things through her EI providers to disseminate. Mary also asked IU to send through their systems. Hopefully this will assist parents transitioning from EI to supports coordination services. There is the potential to have another forum like this in the future to continue to get information out to parents.

We discussed in September doing a town hall type of meeting with people from ODP or similar. At the forum we can distribute a sheet that asks what topics are people interested in, what would they like to see next, etc.. We need a moderator for this meeting, potentially a parent, to ensure the forum does not go off topic.

Will the committee debrief after the forum? Consensus is to meet after the forum concludes and discuss how it went, and potential changes for future forums.

- Upcoming Events
  - Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin Provider Meeting 6/18/25 1pm (via zoom)
    - Touching base with providers about issues such as staff shortages, incident management, behavior support plans getting to AE to be reviewed, and HICU providing information about trainings. They'll be doing quality assurance starting in August for providers.
- Additional comments:
  - Question: Are the consolidated waivers going out and being replaced? Answer: Sort of! It is being changed to managing the budget, and the waivers will go away in favor of a budget for everyone. Hopefully there will be coordination with income maintenance as that is a known issue. It is a five year plan still in the works. The goal is to not worry about the waivers and going through the county assistance office, and to optimize the process. Amber gives an example of this system from New York State, it is faster and uses less paperwork. 12 counties moving to this new system.
  - AE is going to approve services and SCs will make sure those services are being given to the right families.
    - Question: Does this take authority away from COA? Answer: No. The county does not decide on waiver funding.
    - There have been some difficulties getting information about waivers. The idea is that it will be easier to leverage for needing more or less services without re-enrolling for them each time.
    - Question: Is it going to be more difficult to enroll on a county level? Answer: No. It is up to providers to make sure they are billing accordingly.

- Question: Why are some people dealing with Berks County and Dauphin County Assistance office? Answer: It has to do with the waiver program and how it works.
  - There are concerns about parents not being informed enough about where their information goes or who to contact. It is inconsistent how often some people must apply for financial assistance. It is intended to be updated each year for everyone.
    - PF started tracking renewal dates for people to get ahead of anyone who misses their deadlines, in hopes of helping people submit on time. ODP only knows about missed applications when there is no billing from a provider, which leads to complications.
  - Overall this new system is intended to help families meet their needs. Committee members suggest providing a name for the new system to help make parents aware of it and the changes.
- 
- Next meeting  
8/5/25  
Pathways Forward or via Zoom  
1100 S Cameron St Harrisburg Pa 17104
  - Adjournment
    - Nancy motions to adjourn and Betty seconds

Notes taken by Chai Power.