

**Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
N.B. Stakeholder Subcommittee of the Medicaid Advisory Committee  
April 24, 2022 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, the N.B. Stakeholder Subcommittee was held via WebEx.**

**Members Present**

Bernadette May	Family Service Association of Greater Elgin
Andrea Danes	Accelerant Health
Michelle Churchy-Mims	Community Behavioral Healthcare Association
Anna Harvey	YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago
Stephanie Barisch	Center for Youth and Family Solutions
Dee Ann Ryan	Family Advocate
Angie Hampton	Egyptian Public and Mental Health Department
Jason Keeler	Allendale Association
Jennifer McGowan-Tomke	NAMI Chicago
Amanda Walsh	IL Children's Mental Health Partnership

**Members Absent**

Josh Evans	Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Christine Achre	Primo Center for Women and Children
Sarah Daniels	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)
Ashley Deckert	Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Brandy Moore	Centerstone
Jud DeLoss	Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
Michaela Granger	Youth and Family Peer Support Alliance
Regina Crider	Youth and Family Peer Support Alliance
Jennifer Roland	University of Illinois Urbana Champaign – School of Social Work
Dr. Michael Naylor	University of Illinois at Chicago

**I. Welcome and Call to Order / Introductions**

The meeting was opened, and roll call was taken. A quorum was established at 2:36pm.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved once the quorum was established.

**IV. Implementation Update**

Kristine provided an update on implementation of the Pathways to Success program:

- HFS is still working with CMS' Technical Assistance vendor on the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment Application but does not have an estimated timeline for receiving CMS approval. Therefore, HFS will delay the announcement of the Care Coordination and Support Organization application approvals until we have a more solid timeframe established for CMS' approval of the application.

- However, HFS is continuing with implementation preparation including ensuring that all systems are ready to accept provider enrollment, trainings are ready to be provided, billing systems for HFS and MCOs are ready and that public messaging regarding services is also ready.
- HFS has also submitted the Administrative Rule through JCAR for 1<sup>st</sup> filing and has received public comments. The responses to public comments will be submitted to JCAR when we submit the rule for 2<sup>nd</sup> filing and approval. Will not submit for 2<sup>nd</sup> filing until we have a better idea of timeframe from CMS.
- HFS will continue to gather feedback from this committee particularly regarding the public messaging for services and will continue to update the committee regarding implementation progress.
- HFS is working with Dr. Dana Weiner who is leading the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative to increase collaboration between child-serving agencies and also completing a system mapping project to identify overlaps and gaps in services. Dr. Weiner will be completing her scope of work by the end of the year with recommendations for ongoing improvements in the children's behavioral health system for Illinois.
- HFS is also working with the Chief Behavioral Health Officer who is tasked with a broader review of the overall behavioral health system in Illinois.

Q: Will MCOs have a role in the Pathways to Success program, specifically with Care Coordination and Support Organizations?

A: Yes. The CCSOs and other Pathways to Success service providers will be part of the MCO' providers network. HFS and the MCOs will have joint oversight of the program providers.

Q: Has any of the work with CMS caused structural changes to the program?

A: No. Just clarifying around needs-based criteria and other policy areas. We are having to try and bridge the gap between the language we use and the language CMS uses between diagnoses and targeting criteria (like in waivers).

Q: Are the ongoing concerns about children's behavioral health, or our use of the IM+CANS, since it's an assessment tool and not a diagnostic tool?

A: It is more about CMS understanding the translation of the IM+CANS to their understanding of the system, not a global misunderstanding but just a translation in terminology/jargon/language. Most of their work is not with this population, so they are not as fluent in this language.

Q: Is the original implementation timeline still the plan? Kicking off with moves of the DSAs and crisis system, and moving forward with the Pathways/CCSO services after that?

A: Yes, we believe so. About 3 months after approval, we would do MCR transition, and then do our rolling transition starting in southern Illinois the month after.

## **V. Family Engagement Strategies**

In response to the committee's suggestions from the previous meeting, Kristine provided an overview of the Pathways family journey, and the stops along the way. Kristine tasked the group with reviewing the family journey presentation and considering it from the family's perspective, as they move through the program. Kristine asked for provider feedback on ways to improve the family experience.

The subcommittee members identified that the referral and notification process may be confusing for families if they attend an assessment appointment and then receive a letter and a call from an agency representative that they do not know. A suggestion was made to notify the agency that completed the initial assessment and have that agency reach out to the family.

Kristine indicated that this is the kind of feedback that HFS wants to receive and that the agenda for the next meeting would be to continue walking through various parts of the family journey. The subcommittee was told that they would receive the powerpoint presentation with specific areas of requested feedback outlined within the presentation.

## **VI. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **V. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm.