

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee  
MINUTES**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date  
March 15, 2016  
3:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Dean Gates, Chair  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Mallory Hamilton  
Lizette Stiehr

**Staff:**

Brittney Howell



noted that they have gotten a lot of support from the legislature for these options as another way to draw down additional federal dollars.

Duane Mayes reviewed the current budget situation for the various programs as follows:

<b>Program</b>	<b>House Reduction</b>	<b>Senate Reduction</b>
General Relief	\$365,000	\$182,000
Senior & Community Grants	\$0	\$225,000
Community DD Grants	\$640,000	\$320,000
SDS Administrative	\$114,000	--
Unallocated to DHSS	--	\$1,000,000
PCA "Fraud"	--	\$9,000,000

Duane Mayes noted that the legislature will then have to come to agreement between the different figures as they work their way through Conference Committee. Overall, the Division has taken an approximately 2% reduction, which is better than other departments and divisions have fared. He also noted that the Governor's budget contains a \$26 million dollar Medicaid reduction. As a result of this reduction to Medicaid, Duane asks that all advocacy organizations partner with SDS to address that reduction.

Duane Mayes stated that to address the Medicaid reduction, SDS will be looking at soft caps, identifying appropriate service levels at assessment, smart home technology, an explanation of benefits to be provided to families, increased use of telepractice, streamlining the eligibility process, implementing a voucher system for medical supplies, and an electronic verification system for PCA providers, which is a bill being brought forward by Representative Vazquez this session. Duane noted that members of the PCA Association are actually looking at moving forward on this technology on their own.

In terms of 1915(i) and (k), the program will go live with the PCA program under the (k) option in July of 2017. In January of 2018, they will then refinance the Community and Developmental Disability Grant through the (i) option. Following that in July of 2018, they will refinance the General Relief Program and the Senior and Community-Based Grants with the (i)

option. Duane commented that SB 74 gives the Division three additional positions for assessors to refinance these programs to the various options. He also noted that the Division is working towards streamlining the reassessments for eligible individuals.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Brittney Howell stated that the provider certification regulations comment letter was submitted on March 7, 2016, and the SDS Transition Plan on Settings (version 3) comment letter was submitted on March 8, 2016.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Finalize Waiver Renewal Application Comment Letter (Due 3/18/16)**

Brittney Howell led committee members through a discussion of the draft comment letter on the waiver renewal application.

Lizette Stiehr discussed some rough draft comments that AADD has not had a chance to review yet, but shared the following concerns that she sees from AADD's perspective:

- The early intervention section should contain goals relative to the National Core Indicators as a quality outcome.
- A simplified plan of care is needed at this point, because the way it looks now is the plan of care process has been increased. This can be accomplished by providers and families working with SDS.
- The Key Coalition definition is a little odd, and they should use the one from the website.
- Change the reference from "sheltered workshops" on page 49 to "supported employment."
- Under the respite category they use "day hab" when it should be "respite."
- Each one of the service sections contains language that a program administrator cannot be a program administrator for any other type of program. Rural providers may have an issue with this language.

The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion about program administrators in rural areas and how that also compares to the conflict-free care coordination issue in rural areas in that there just isn't the staffing available for that. Committee members also discussed that AADD's issues may differ slightly than the Council's, so while the committee welcomes AADD to comment as appropriate to them, the committee agreed to add just a few of their suggestions to their comment letter as well as to make the following discussed revisions as Britteny Howell summarized below:

- Change "sheltered workshop" to "supported employment."
- Reword No. 3 in their letter to read, "Increase risk to the individual who is not receiving supports and services which increases the risk of interaction with the criminal justice system."
- Lost wages will be addressed in No. 4 as an increased cost to the State.
- Add the National Core Indicators recommendation for early intervention.
- Add a request for further definitions of the characteristics of the program administrator section.

Britteny Howell will e-mail the rewrite to committee members for their review.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Any future meetings for the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.