

## Community First Choice (CFC) Committee

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Summary

**Members Present:** Anna Doroghazi, Cathy Ludlum, Melissa Morton, Sheldon Toubman, Tom, Mary Ann, Michele Jordan, Karyl Lee Hall

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:** Denise Spyke, Brenda Stenglein,

**Members of the Public:** William Halsey, Heather Hull-Ferguson

1. Meeting called to order by Tom at 11:07 a.m.
2. Karyl Lee shared her frustration that key DSS people were not in the meeting.
3. Tom made a motion to approved June minutes, Melissa moved, Anna seconded. All were in favor. June minutes were approved.
4. FI Contract Update – Bill Halsey
  - DSS Commissioner pushed to get the draft contract completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>, but that deadline was not met.
  - Many details in the weeds of the contract are being worked out.
    - Paying attention to customer service
    - Working on efficient payment of PCAs
    - Adding agency based PCAs
  - A draft contract will probably be sent to the Commissioner within 5 days.
  - The contract then goes to the Attorney General’s Office for their review.
  - MaryAnn asked what the rollout plan will be.
    - Bill wants to make sure it’s a smooth transition from one contract to the other.
    - He anticipates a 6-month transition period when the contract is executed.
  - Tom asked what the plan is for advising people what agency based PCAs are.
    - Bill said he is working on that and would welcome feedback from the group about the most effective way to communicate this new service to members.
    - Bill described this new service as individuals who can’t or don’t want to self-direct. They can hire an agency to manage all of their PCA services. PCAs would be employed not by the member, but by an agency.
    - Melissa shared that the CFC population could hire a PCA through a home health agency. The home health agency is the employer. The member works with the agency to direct the hours and tasks and develop the care plan. They are not the employer of record, but it allows them to get those PCA services under the state plan.
    - Melissa also said if someone could not self-direct anymore, they had to qualify for a waiver to get on agency based or they were out of luck and had to stay on CFC. So, this

is to fill that gap for folks who qualify for straight state plan, Medicaid and CFC and can't get on a waiver.

- This is looking at expanding choice.
- Tom asked Melissa about the Executive Order that unionized PCAs.
  - Melissa said that the PCAs are not consumer employees any longer, so they are not covered under the collective bargaining agreement.
- Anna asked if Melissa anticipates much of a shift from the consumer employer model to the agency based.
  - Melissa said that is preliminary and she would have to speak with the budget folks.
  - There may be some growth in the program with this additional option.
- Anna asked if a consumer was interested in agency based and also wants to keep their current PCA, would that be an option?
  - Bill answered that consumer's may not get the same PCA for their hours.
  - Melissa said that one of the pathways to do that was the PCA become hired by the HHA and assigned to the person. That's how it worked before CFC.
- Karyl Lee commented that in this evolution, she hopes that the agency-based model does not eat up the old self-directed model.

#### 5. CFC Slide Deck

- There are lots of questions about the CFC program so Bill is making a slide deck. What happens when PCAs don't get paid, how do we set rates, what is the role of the fiscal intermediary and access agencies, etc. These are some of the issues that will be included.
- Bill has volunteers who want to vet the slide deck and he would also like to share it with this group, maybe create an ad hoc group and do a draft presentation for feedback. Bill would like this meeting before the September 8<sup>th</sup> LTSS meeting.
- This will be a living document with frequently asked questions.

#### 6. EVV

- DSS is still supporting 211 on the EVV Help Center
- DSS wants to do outreach to individuals that use the 211 help center week after week
- These people are not making progress on their EVV enrollment and timesheet submissions.
- Bill said that there may be technology challenges, training issues and some people need coaching.
- He has heard that some people are taking up several hours on the 211 help center line by asking 211 to enter every single one of their visits over the week.

#### 7. Public Comment

- Sheldon Toubman commented that he appreciates the CFC slide deck because it's a problem knowing what the rules are.
- Sheldon also said the UA needs to be looked at as well. He believes there are some things that are not captured in it.

- 8. Tom made a motion to adjourn, Karyl Lee moved, and Bill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:09.

**Next meeting is October 11, 2023**