



Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Date	March 3, 2022
Time	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location	Call In Information: https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/202849015 , (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 202 849 015
Purpose	To assist and advise the Division of Healthcare Financing (Division) in implementing a statewide service delivery system for persons who are identified as having developmental and intellectual disabilities, and acquired brain injuries (ABI).
Members	Rita Basom, Ginny Chidsey , Maria Clark, Brenda Dick , Heather Dodson, Jeff Gardner, Kayla Green, Buck Gwyn, Arkansas Le Marr, Erin O'Neill, Sandy Root-Elledge, Bob Sell
Division Staff	Elizabeth Forslund, Lee Grossman, Dillion Johnson, Samantha Mills, Shirley Pratt

AGENDA ITEMS/KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

Topics and Highlights	
1.	<p><u>Roll call and approval of minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff called the meeting to order at 2:06. • Rita moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021; Arkansas seconded. Motion carried.
2.	<p><u>American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD Provider rate increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Division implemented an increase to provider reimbursement rates on February 1, 2022. This increase, which is projected to be \$9.4 million dollars annually, will be funded through ARPA. The Division is working through some issues with the claims payment system that processes and pays out claims, but these issues are being resolved. • Provider attestations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When ARPA was signed into law, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance on how states would need to plan, draw down, and expend the funding. In accordance with the guidance, the Division is requiring all providers to pass these increases on to direct support workers. Elizabeth presented the required attestation and reporting forms that providers are required to complete to demonstrate that this requirement is met. ○ <u>Member question:</u> Will all providers need to come into compliance? <u>Division response:</u> Yes. <i>Each provider will be required to complete and submit the attestation. If the provider does not assign wages or provide a service that received an increase, they will not need to submit subsequent reporting forms.</i> • Conditional approval of spending plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Division received conditional approval of its ARPA spending plan and narrative on February 9, 2022. This approval allows the Division to draw down ARPA funding and implement activities that are identified in the plan. Council members were encouraged to visit the Division's ARPA webpage to review the spending plans updates and the conditional approval letter. • Ongoing activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Division expects the projected funding and expenditures that were presented in the initial spending plan to be very close to actual funding and expenditures. The Division is confident that all ARPA funding will be spent within the time frame allowed by CMS. ○ <u>Member question:</u> Is there room for the Division to make changes to the spending plan and move money to other activities? <u>Division response:</u> <i>The spending plan is updated quarterly,</i>

	<p><i>and changes can be made within the plan as long as the plan continues to comply with federal guidance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Member question:</u> Will online medication training be available? <u>Division response:</u> <i>Yes. The Division is developing an online medication assistance training, and is targeting a September 1st implementation date.</i> <u>Member comment:</u> It would be helpful if the Division could provide a list of current trainers so that providers have options on where to receive this training. ● Additional Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Member question:</u> If the funding ends in March 2024, how will we ensure that salaries don't decrease once the money is gone? <u>Division response:</u> <i>For temporary increases funded through ARPA dollars to continue, the legislature would need to appropriate additional money at the end of the ARPA funding period. The Division has messaged that this funding is temporary in all of the communications sent to stakeholders.</i>
3.	<p><u>Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EVV for traditional services launched on February 15th. Providers will be required to use this solution beginning April 1, 2022. ● As with any new software system, some initial bugs were identified, but most have been resolved. If continuing issues are identified, providers should contact Carebridge, the vendor for this solution. ● <u>Member comment:</u> Several members of the Wyoming Waiver Family Facebook page have been voicing complaints about the system. The transition to ACES\$, the vendor for participant-direction EVV, went pretty smoothly. It is a shame that the Division couldn't use the same company for both systems. <u>Division response:</u> <i>EVV is not yet required for traditional services. The transition period is intended to help find and resolve issues before the system is required. There have been ongoing issues with the Benefits Management System (BMS), the system that processes and pays all Medicaid claims. The Division is working with the vendor for this system to get these final issues resolved.</i> ● <u>Member comment:</u> There have been issues with Therap and Carebridge communicating. ● <u>Member comment:</u> Therap has an EVV system, so they do not appear to be motivated to work with Carebridge. The EVV system seems to work pretty smoothly unless the provider is billing through another system, such as Therap.
4.	<p><u>Division updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council welcomed Dillion Johnson as the new Quality Improvement Coordinator with the Division. ● National Core Indicators (NCI) Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results of the NCI Staff Stability Survey have been published and are available on the Division website, under the <i>Reports</i> section. ○ <u>Member question:</u> Was there anything to note from the report? <u>Division response:</u> <i>2020 turnover data indicates that Wyoming no longer has the highest turnover rate nationally, although we are still in the top half. Data shows that all states are now struggling with turnover.</i> ○ The Division will provide a Wyoming specific summary of the data during the June 2022 DDAC meeting. ● Legislative update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Wyoming Senate and House of Representatives both passed a budget amendment to appropriate \$3.2 million in additional funding to agency providers of developmental disability services. This bill has not been signed into law, but the Division is having internal discussion on how to implement this increase if the bill is signed by Governor Gordon.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Member comment:</u> The vote in both chambers showed overwhelming support of this bill. An additional bill that supports workforce stabilization among several provider types is also alive and still in play. ○ <u>Member question:</u> Is the Division steering people toward larger providers? <i>Division response: The Wyoming provider network is different from most states, with Wyoming having over 660 providers. This equates to one provider for every 4 participants, where most states in our region experience an average of one provider for every 100 participants. This is positive for Wyoming since people can get support in rural areas of the state. The Division's role is to ensure that people have choice in their providers, large or small.</i> ○ <u>Member comment:</u> I used to live in a group home. Now I am in my own apartment and have my own space. I am learning to be my own guardian and budget my own money. My staff and case manager help me. I have more choices since I am on my own and have lots of providers. ○ <u>Member comment:</u> We want that story to be reflective of what others experience. Anecdotally, there seem to be more small and mid-size organizations than there used to be. A one size fits all approach is not the way to provide services. Different providers address different needs. ○ <u>Member question:</u> Who does the Wyoming Life Resource Center (WLRC) serve? <i>Division response: The majority of the census is the legacy population that has been there for most of their lives. The Benefits and Eligibility Unit has weekly meetings with the WLRC and the Wyoming State Hospital. People are still admitted for stabilization, and can choose to receive institutional services rather than community services, but the Division starts work on discharge planning as soon as a person is admitted to an institution.</i> ○ <u>Member comment:</u> People need individualized services. We welcome the competition, and are glad that people have so many choices.
5.	<p><u>Member updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion on why providers are not populating in the drop down menu in the Electronic Medicaid Waiver System. This is a known issue, and the Division is working with developers to get it resolved. If case managers identify a specific issue, they should reach out to their Benefits and Eligibility Specialist. The Division wants to ensure that providers are paid appropriately. ● The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is working with the Equality State Research Network to document historical accounts and personal narratives of people in institutions. They are working on their 5 year plan, which is due at the end of April. They are also collaborating with Protection and Advocacy (P&A), the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (WGCD), and the Wyoming Community Service Providers to determine next steps for addressing the workforce crisis. ● The WGCD submitted their 5 year plan and is working to get some minor edits resolved. They are hosting a luncheon on March 18th that focuses on advocacy efforts and the future of advocacy in Wyoming. An art gala will be held on March 26th at the Metropolitan in Cheyenne. Artists will showcase their artwork and the event will promote community inclusion. ● The CARES Act moratorium on housing evictions has sunset, and P&A is seeing more housing evictions. As a reminder, Wyoming law requires a 30-day eviction notice. ● Arkansas is working with WIND to address gaps in healthcare for women with disabilities.
6.	<p><u>Bylaws Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jeff reviewed edits suggested by the Bylaws Committee. ● Bob moved to accept the bylaws with the suggested changes; Erin seconded. Motion carried.
7.	<p><u>Election of Officers</u></p> <p>Current Council officers were thanked for their year of service.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rita nominated Jeff as Chairperson • Jeff nominated Rita as Vice Chairperson • Jeff nominated Ginny as Secretary • Council retained the current slate of officers for another year.
8.	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>There was no public comment offered during the public comment period.</p>
9.	Rita moved to adjourn the meeting. Erin seconded.
NEXT MEETING – June 2, 2022 - In Person or Zoom!	