



Eric Holcomb, Governor  
State of Indiana

***Division of Aging***  
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**CHOICE Board Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2023  
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN  
Wabash Hall Conference Rooms 4 and 5**

Attendees were able to join virtually over Zoom.

The meeting was livestreamed and is available on the FSSA Indiana YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@fssaindianavideos/streams>

Laurie Mullet, CHOICE Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

Members in attendance: Vice Chair Laurie Mullet, Representative Ed Clere, Dr. JoAnn Burke, Leslie Huckleberry, Beth Schoenfeld, Representative Carolyn Jackson

Members not in attendance: Chair Hannah Carlock, Senator Ed Charbonneau, Senator Jean Breaux, James Leich, Megan Smith

Erin Wright, Division of Aging Director of Access and Engagement, updated on the amending of 7 of 16 CHOICE state fiscal year 2023 grants to redirect some resources to some Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that need additional funding. Erin also updated regarding waiting lists and the cleanup of those lists. The need for more and better data related to CHOICE participants, specifically zero to one Activity of Daily Living (ADL) limitations, has been an ongoing conversation. Erin announced a partnership with Wellbeing Informed Science and Evidence in Indiana (WISE) and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Finances Institute to get a quantitative and qualitative analysis of CHOICE participants. Initial results and recommendations are expected later this summer or in early fall and will be shared at the November CHOICE meeting.

Leslie Huckleberry, Director of the Division of Aging, shared that on March 1, 2023, it was announced that the award for the RFP for Indiana Pathways for Aging/mLTTSS program is going to four Managed Care Entities: Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Humana Healthy Horizons in Indiana, Molina Healthcare of Indiana, and United Healthcare Community Plan. Leslie explained there will be a lengthy and robust implementation and readiness review process that will begin soon, as well as contract negotiations with those entities. She said an update from Medicaid at the May meeting would walk the Commission through that plan and process. There is a standing agenda item for every meeting for FSSA updates, and the Division of Aging would like to incorporate these updates from not only the Division of Aging, but also from the Office of



Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP), and the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), on issues relating to aging individuals.

Leslie also discussed the frequent questions regarding marketing and communications for Indiana Pathways for Aging. She explained that the state has contracted with McFarland, a public relations firm, that has come on board to help with the design and management of that communications and marketing plan for Pathways. More to come as the Division of Aging and McFarland will be reaching out for assistance with this plan and implementation in the future.

Vanessa Convard, Director, Service Enrichment & Advancement/Director, Adult Protective Services in the Division of Aging presented an overview of the Enrollment Services Vendor (ESV) process. Time is being taken to ensure a person-centered process is forthcoming. She outlined the scope of services and took questions throughout the presentation. The Managed Care Entity (MCE) will prepare the service plan with the consumer with waivers that includes home and community-based services once the ESV process is complete. The ESV will walk through the process with the consumer.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), informed about General Assembly bills that are still alive. The educational packet she provided has a list of bills of interest to CHOICE for this session. I4A has been advocating with the new Weights and Means chair for 1) to increase the CHOICE appropriation, and 2) to reduce the transfer of CHOICE to Medicaid for waiver match. The budget came out of the House with no changes by the House. There is a slight decrease in the amount of waiver funding which means more money for direct care. Kristin spoke of a very hot topic among our seniors, housing costs. Landlords are increasing rents beyond affordability, not maintaining habitable housing for seniors, and have little or no oversight.

Kristen shared AARP's valuation of caregiving which is included in the education packet. The report has a state-by-state summary of caregiving statistics. Indiana is reporting 790,000 unpaid family caregivers that contribute 740 million hours of service to their loved ones, and the economic value, based on \$14.61/hour, has a worth of \$10.8 billion. Family caregivers provide a very valuable role in the long-term services and support system.

Laurie Mullet adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.