

**COMMUNITY AND IN-HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR  
THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

**March 17, 2016**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 4  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN**

**CHOICE Board Members in Attendance:** Jean Macdonald, Sen. Jean Breaux, Rep. Ed Clere, Lynn Clough, Andy Weidkamp

**CHOICE Board Members Absent:** Dorian Maples, Prudence Twigg, Sen. Jean Leising, Rep. Robin Shackleford

**Visitors in Attendance:** Kristen LaEace, Orion Bell, Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Gus Habig, Johnnie Varner, Erika Hall

**Staff in Attendance:** Debbie Pierson, Yonda Synder, Willie Poindexter

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Jean Macdonald called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the November 2015 minutes. The Board approved the minutes as presented. Jean tabled Old Business and went on to the FSSA Legislative update.

**Legislative Update:** Gus Habig, Legislative Director for FSSA explained a list of bills, some of which they are doing a wrap up on because of their impact on the agency and some that will impact the populations they serve.

Gus said Senate Enrolled Acts that passed include SEA 11 which sets up the structure for the state to begin to form ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts for individuals with disabilities. SEA 165, referred to as the Healthy Indiana bill, combines the core principles of the Healthy Indiana Plan so in the future when administrations come and go in the state of Indiana, a solid foundation is provided to continue negotiating the Healthy Indiana Program. SEA 192 has probably the largest impact on the Division of Aging. It sets up a study group on the topic of guardianship. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of 192 is Adult Protection Services. They will work with Indiana Prosecutors, APS, and other interested stakeholders to come up with recommendations for the program, make them fully vetted, and have them submitted to the Budget Committee. SEA 221, a securities and financial protection bill, opens up the lines of communication between financial authorities when they see that something is going on with an endangered adult that is possibly financial exploitation. It gives financial institutions the opportunity to contact APS directly so an investigation can be launched.

Gus told the group that this session people focused on mental health and addiction. There were a couple of bills that deal with addiction, one of which SB 297 regarding opioid dependence treatment.

HEAs 1547 and 1347 both target the workforce. There is a growing number of mental health and addiction services, but not growing number of professionals for those services. This bill makes it a little more attractive to pursue a career in one of those fields. In closing, Gus cited a couple of legislative studies: SEA 223, SEA 364, and HEA 1375.

Jean said before moving to other business she wanted to explain to the Board why she attended the Commission on Aging meeting that morning. Jean said she and Yonda had talked about how they could be more efficient for staff. The CoA and CHOICE Board both hear the same educational information. The thought was to have both groups jointly meet for the educational session and then split off to conduct their business agenda. Jean asked the Board to think about it; it's not something they have to make a decision on now. Jean plans to tell everyone at the May meeting if members would be interested in doing so. At this time, the May meeting has been moved to a Monday because of room availability. Jean asked the Board if Monday was okay, if not it can be moved back to Thursday and they could meet at her association because the parking and meeting space would be free. Rep. Ed Clere said they could probably meet in one of the Committee Rooms at the Statehouse as an alternative meeting place. Jean said the thought was that maybe in July [there is no meeting in July so she meant June], Board members would pick a time good for everyone and they would meet with them on a Thursday and start their educational session and then split up and go over their own agenda items. Jean asked the Board to send her an email on their thoughts.

**Division Update:** Debbie Pierson presented the five-tier pyramid on the Division's Rebalancing plan. The three strategies employed are 1) addressing system capacity issues, 2) enhancing the use of technology, and 3) transformational items that affect the system as a whole that gets them moving toward rebalancing.

Yonda stated that the rebalancing of Medicaid is critical because Medicaid is the single biggest payer of long-term care services and supports, and nursing facilities are the most expensive care setting. Home care tends to be more cost-effective and aligns more with individuals' preferences.

Debbie Pierson said Dr. Steve Counsell is working with the Division of Aging on identifying risk of institutionalization, and how positive outcomes are monitored as far as reducing risks when they intervene through programs like the CHOICE pilot. Debbie said they will be spending the next six months or so looking at all the options for home and community-based services as part of the Rebalancing and hopefully will be submitting a proposal to CMS as early as January.

Yonda said they are more focused on the external and operational policies around home and community-based services. The other partner is the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP), because they have the Medicaid money. They are the ones who take the point in the relationship with CMS. Yonda went on to say there are two levers in rebalancing, the home and community-based services lever increasing and the nursing facility lever, and asked how we manage that. For the past several months, OMPP and the Division of Aging have been involved in productive and collaborative

discussions with the nursing facility industry to work to make finances available to allow us to access home and community-based services.

Yonda said they have just submitted their first report to the legislature on the CHOICE pilot as required, and she will email a copy to the Board to possibly put on the agenda and have a discussion at the May meeting.

Debbie said they will hopefully be able to give the Board updates on changes to the pyramid at the May meeting, and the switch they will be making to all their programs on assessment on July 1<sup>st</sup> as part of the PASRR process for nursing facility level of care determination called the Inter-RAI Home Care Assessment Tool.

Yonda announced that Karen Gilliland has been named the Long-Term Care Ombudsman State Director. Karen's charter will be to reposition the program to more effectively support and meet the needs of individuals across the state as changes are being made in long-term care in regards to rebalancing. They are also doing some reorganizing and a new person is coming on board in a couple of weeks who is going to be very hands-on and provider-focused. They are also seeking to create and fill a position to help organize all the large amounts of data the Division has created. As previously mentioned the Division has contracted with geriatrician/researcher Dr. Counsell to help them figure out how to help and support the network in becoming more integrated with healthcare as well as how to help the healthcare network know what's out there in their communities.

**I-4A Update:** Kristen LaEace said there were two bills Gus didn't talk about: Senate Bill 350, which will now require national background checks for home and health care workers, and House Bill 1263: tele-medicine, which i4A supports. Kristen also said that Adult Protective Services will receive an additional \$1.1 million that will provide one additional investigator to each of the 18 hubs.

Kristen introduced the Board to i4A's new website on which they can get regular updates on both state and national aging industry news, and get connected to the area agencies. She encouraged them to share the information and encourage people to sign up to stay connected to what's happening in the Area Agencies on Aging by reading their daily blogs. In her educational packet, she included articles on opioid prescription problems in the older population. Kristen said she included an article on the retirement of Senator Patricia Miller and encouraged everyone to thank her for her 34 years of service because many of the pieces of legislation that made progress for older adults and people with disabilities went through her legislative committee, and if it weren't for her support for hearing and pushing bills forward things wouldn't get passed. An article on 211 is just one of several produced for FY15 but this one pertains to how Hoosier seniors are struggling to meet their needs. Also included are three promising reports on long-term care financing, and for newer members who need a primer on Medicaid and long-term care services and supports there is a report from Kaiser along with several other interesting reports.

With no further business, Jean Macdonald adjourned the meeting.

