



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging

MS 21, 402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083
TOLL FREE: 1-888-673-0002
FAX: 317-232-7867

**CHOICE Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN
Conference A**

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 Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. (ET). Laurie noted a quorum was not present so the September and November 2023, and January 2024 minutes will be filed for approval at a future meeting.

Kim Bremer, Director of PathWays and Holly Cunningham Piggott, Director of Care Programs, both from Office of Medicaid Policy & Planning (OMPP), gave an overview of the PathWays Readiness Review. Notices have gone out, enrollment is underway, and stakeholder webinars have begun. The Readiness Review looks at MCE's staffing, policies, processes, system capabilities, and the provider network. It includes both a desk review of MCE documentation as well as an onsite demonstration of MCE systems and capabilities. Holly shared an example of a desk review requirement and an onsite review requirement. Safeguards are in place to ensure that all MCEs are ready to accept enrollment, provide continuity of care, ensure access to necessary spectrum of providers, and fully meet the diverse needs of the population. MCEs must be in compliance with over 270 readiness requirements.

Carissa Atherton, Associate Health Data Scientist, Division of Aging (DA), updated regarding the CHOICE dashboard. The purpose of the dashboard is to provide an in-depth look at the data already available. The goal is to have the participant data updated regularly while monitoring any changes in CHOICE program data. The dashboard will allow easy access and dissemination of up-to-date and verified CHOICE figures.

Andrew Bean, Deputy Director for the Division of Aging, shared his appreciation to Carissa and Erin for the work they have put into the CHOICE dashboard project. Andrew advised of the recent announcement of the Governor's 2024 Next Level Agenda which includes the Multi-sector Plan on Aging. FSSA and the DA have been instructed to begin work on this 10-year plan that will involve public, private, and independent sectors focusing on the growing aging



population. The focus will be on housing, transportation, employment, income security, and health and well-being.

Cora Steinmetz, Director of Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) talked about FSSAs Medicaid forecast and waiver transition to DDRS from DA, and other shifts and realignments that are occurring within those divisions. Beginning with the Medicaid forecast, Cora outlined steps to understand the drivers behind the variance in the state portion of the shortfall. Understanding the drivers of the variance will allow for solutions to be as tailored as possible for the people served. She identified several different drivers associated with the variance including lower Medicaid prescription drug rebates, delayed implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) rates, and unanticipated growth in enrollment and utilization of the Aged & Disabled (A&D) waiver and attendant care (ATTC) services. These drivers do not encompass the entire shortfall.

Cora explained the strategies being implemented will minimize as much as possible impact to those being served across the Medicaid program while remaining focused on addressing the drivers of the Medicaid forecast. Large contributors of the variance are from the A&D waiver. Strategies include reviewing service plans and reducing automatic approvals, ensuring compliance of the service definition, including a Structured Family Caregiving (SFC) provision for Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs), scheduled trainings, reviews, and future planning sessions regarding pediatric eligibility, pausing Expedited Waiver Eligibility (EWE), and monitoring waiver slots. Waiver redesign was also discussed as it will likely begin once all transitions are complete. A robust question and answer session followed Cora's presentation.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), began with her packet information reflects the beginning of the Indiana General Assembly. Senate Bill 109 was heard in the Senate Family and Children Committee and allows FSSA to contract outside of Indiana prosecuting attorney's council for the implementation of its Adult Protective Services (APS) system. This is long sought language that I4A supports as a final rule will be published on a national level that will impose federal minimum standards for state APS systems.

Laurie Mullet received a motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 4:04 p.m. (ET).