



Eric Holcomb, Governor  
State of Indiana

***Division of Aging***

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**CHOICE Board Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 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>

CHOICE Board Chair Laurie Mullet was unable to attend, so Jim Leich, CHOICE Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (ET). Jim noted a quorum was not present so the September and November 2023, as well as January and March 2024 minutes will be filed for approval at a future meeting.

Members in attendance: Jim Leich, JoAnn Burke, Representative Ed Clere, Representative Carolyn Jackson, Jake Sipe, and Leslie Huckleberry.

Erin Wright, Division of Aging (DA), discussed House Enrolled Act 1067, which expanded membership and updated terms of service for members of the CHOICE Board. Two new board positions were created for citizens, one to represent senior citizens and one to represent direct service workers. This position requires being a recipient, or the caregiver of a recipient, of services provided under the CHOICE program. The executive director of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), or the executive director's designee, was also added to the CHOICE Board. Additional existing vacancies were discussed, and nominations are required to fill those vacancies.

Jim introduced Tina McIntosh, President of Joy's House, an adult day service center in Broad Ripple. Tina explained the evolution of Joy's House and what her company is doing through innovation for caregivers. The most recent endeavor is Caregiver Way, "an online community where family caregivers gather to become empowered through education, resources...and each other." A \$10 monthly membership/subscription is required. This app provides support in the areas of self-care, caring for a loved one, financial and legal, end-of-life, and life after caregiving. Tina demonstrated some of the features of the app and is providing a code for members to try out the app over the next month. Caregiver Way will officially launch to the public on July 1.



Carissa Atherton, Associate Health Data Analyst for the Division of Aging (DA), updated on the CHOICE Dashboard. The internal version of the CHOICE Dashboard has been made available for select members of the Division of Aging for beta testing. Carissa explained how the dashboard shows the overall data for active CHOICE participants in the state of Indiana. Filters can be applied for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and different sets of data demographics. She showed a proportion map to better display the differences in the data sets. Next steps are to wrap up beta testing, make final edits, and release the dashboard internally to FSSA members in July.

Leslie Huckleberry, Director, Division of Aging (DA), provided FSSA/Division of Aging updates on PathWays Readiness and the Medicaid Forecast. PathWays members are beginning to receive plan assignments. Individuals will receive a welcome packet about their assigned plan in June. Marketing and outreach are increasing as the go-live date approaches. Senate Enrolled Act 132 requires claims testing for providers, which are currently underway. The DA is working with the MCEs to ensure sufficient staffing for July 1.

Regarding the Medicaid forecast, more waitlist spots will become available in July. The DA is working to finalize what the process will look like to take people off the wait list once more slots are available. When that is finalized, the process will be shared with the CHOICE board. Bi-weekly webinars are continuing with providers, members, and caregivers in preparation for upcoming transitions.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), discussed how the I4A has been working closely with Senator Mike Braun's office regarding Indiana's priorities for the Older Americans Act reauthorization. Senator Braun is the ranking member of the US Senate Special Committee on Aging, a group of eight bipartisan senators drafting the reauthorization language.

Jim Leich received a motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 2:47 p.m. (ET).