

**Child Welfare Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Workgroup
WebEx / Conference line**

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 4:00PM -**

Members in attendance:	Kristine Herman, HFS Lea Kirby Dr. Michael Naylor Nina Dixon, DCFS Ruth Jajko Audrey Pennington, Aunt Martha's Director Marc Smith, DCFS Dr. Rashad Saafir, BEW Keshonna Lones, HFS Marc Fagan, YouthCare Heather Souba-Meridian/Youthcare Suzanne Isenberg-Chhabra, Deputy Directory Permanency DCFS Stephanie Barisch, The Center for Youth and Family Solutions Timothy Snowden, Statewide Chief Deputy Director, Permanency and Intact Services, DCFS Keith Polan, Chief Deputy Director Clinical & Child Services, DCFS Carol Sheley
Non-members in attendance:	Michelle Churchey-Mims Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz Jason Keeler Robert Miromonti David Jackson Traneeka Mickell Patrick Lindstrom Cassandra Chaney Jill Hayden Helena Buckner, Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, DCFS Kate Smith, Programs Manager, Office of Legislative Affairs, DCFS Kara Hamilton, Associate Deputy Director, External Communications, DCFS Darnita Jackson, Administrative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs, DCFS

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Kristine Herman, meeting Facilitator and Bureau Chief of Behavioral Health with Healthcare and Family Services welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

II. Introductions and Roll Call

Kate Smith (DCFS) took roll call. It was determined that a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Rashid Saafir entered a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 16, 2022.

Stephanie Barisch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Update on Implementation

DCFS

Nina Dixon announced a newly initiated survey for DCFS Supervisors, Case Managers, YouthCare Care Coordinators and POS agencies on current communication processes to ensure that they are working effectively and to make improvements to the system based upon the feedback.

YouthCare

Marc Fagan, Plan President for YouthCare, provided information on the Mobile Crisis Response and how they are working with the escalation process in coordination with DCFS, HFS and with providers to transition into Integrated Care Team Meetings to provide staffing for when a young person goes into crisis. This has been working well and positive feedback was received from the families they are working with as well as MCR providers. Additional criterion included for escalation process to alert DCFS, YouthCare Leadership and providers of youth who have gone in crisis more than once in a given time frame or whom are 8yrs old or under so that resources are provided efficiently. The escalation process and close communication with MCR providers provides a great foundation for transition into Pathways next year.

HFS

Keshonna Lones provided updates to the YouthCare Performance Thresholds which are currently being established for the YouthCare population. Baseline data was collected to develop trends and thresholds to be included in the YouthCare dashboards. This is currently in progress expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2022. More updated and key findings to be shared once finalized. Additionally, per update given during June's meeting regarding continuing education for MCR providers, the trainings occurred July 26 and August 2 for 50 participants. Training topics were finalized collectively by DCFS, HFS and YouthCare and included the following:

- Reminders regarding the role of the MCR providers and cross agency collaboration for youth-in-care with behavioral health crisis.
- Overview of the current HFS policy with regards to Mobile Crisis Response Services and the escalation process
- Partnering and communicating with YouthCare; best practices to escalate issues and challenges.
- Process for inter-agency staffing.

V. Additional Topics of Discussion

YouthCare's Transition of Care Team works to link youth and families to providers and other community resources for short and/or long-term resources and support prior to transitioning from psychiatric hospitals. The Pathways initiative beginning next calendar year will be a great resource to connect youth repeatedly in and out of hospitals. YouthCare continues to develop relationships with providers to increase the provider pool and especially in areas there aren't many like in the southern and western parts of the State. Dedicated efforts to finding autism-based services for young people continues as an area of focus.

Issues with workforce shortage has presented challenges identifying people qualified to do this kind of work and that have the capacity especially in less populated areas but there has been some upward trends with regards to provider availability. YouthCare is open and willing to conduct training for new staff or group of individuals due to turnovers.

DCFS continues to build back capacity weekly increasing residential beds, shelter beds and emergency foster care placements to serve kids transitioning out of psychiatric settings while a longer care placement can be found for them. DCFS has added more specialty beds focused on serving the intellectual disabilities population, pregnant and parenting teens, quality residential treatment programs and more are in development.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:37 PM.