

**ALA
PLANNING & NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 6, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Irma Canfield, Chair
Mary Hanlon-Hillis, Vice Chair
Pam Stephens, Community Member
Debby Valdez, Family Member
Sandra Iracheta-Cruz, Community Member
Jennifer Tarr, Community Member
Virginia Burns, Community Member
Ronald E. Moore, Family Member
William Robinson, Community Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Evans, Parliamentarian
Cara Magrane, Community Member
James Meadours, Family Member
Martha Moyer, Family Member

STAFF PRESENT

Susan Lodge, Interim Director, ALA
Virginia Charles, Non Waiver Services Manager
Lona Carter, Waiver Services Manager - HCS
Lupe G. Abundis, Enrollment and Eligibility Manager
Jacob Ulczynski, IDD QA Program Manager
Teresa S. Kolenda, Administrative Assistant

1. Ms. Canfield called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Roll call by Ms. Kolenda. It is noted that the following members arrived late, Mr. Moore, Ms. Stephens, Ms. Tarr, and Mr. Robinson at 1:10 pm.
3. Welcome and Hospitality
Ms. Canfield welcomed everyone and informed everyone the location of the emergency exits.
4. Citizens to be Heard
 - Ms. Canfield read statement for citizens to be heard.
 - There were no citizens to be heard.
5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
 - Ms. Canfield read the following statement – If anyone has Conflict of Interest on any of the action items, they should abstain from voting.
6. Consider and act upon approval of the June 9, 2015 minutes.
 - A motion was made by Ms. Iracheta-Cruz to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Burns, the motion carried unanimously.
7. Consider and act upon the recommendation to revise the Community Safety Net Services reimbursement rate for Speech and Language Services (SPL) to be more competitive with the Bexar County Service market:
 - Mr. Ulczynski reviewed the hourly rates in comparison with Medicaid, Tricare, and school districts for consideration of raising the rates. Discussion followed with input from members with options to consider.

- One consideration is to raise rates from \$68.00 to \$120.00 which is lower than Medicaid and matched with the school districts.
- Ms. Charles monitors the expenditures on Utilization Review (UR). No impact on the budget and all utilizations are on as need basis and approved.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson to accept in raising the rate of \$120.00, seconded by Ms. Valdez, the motion carried unanimously.

It is noted that Ms. Valdez arrived at 1:40 pm.

8. Consider and act upon the recommendation to revise the General Revenue program individuals service limits; community Safety Net Services rate structure.
 - Review rates to ensure expenditures.
 - It is suggested that a Sub-committee be established to review in depth to make a recommendation. Discussion followed on the all items to be considered and request for volunteers to head the sub-committee. The following members will meet to discuss and make recommendations: Pam Stephens, Mary Hanlon-Hillis, Sandra Iracheta-Cruz, and Debby Valdez
 - A motion was made by Ms. Hanlon-Hillis to consider rate reimbursement to providers, seconded by Ms. Stephens, the motion carried unanimously.
9. Consider and act upon the recommendation to contract for the provision of Community Safety Net Services based on the Request for Applications (RFA) response: Behavior Pathways, LLC; Kidz Treehouse Pediatric Therapy, LLC.
 - Mr. Ulczynski reviewed the evaluation point system for both agencies that included:
 - >Professional Qualifications, Risk Assessment, Financial Solvency, Risk Profile, and Production Capability
 - >Discussion followed with input from members carefully reviewing both agencies.
 - A motion was made by Ms. Hanlon-Hillis to accept both Behavior Pathways and Kidz Treehouse Pediatric and add to the Community Safety Net Services, seconded by Ms. Tarr, the motion carried unanimously.
10. Consider the following from Quality Management:
 - a. Discussion and update regarding recent Critical Incidents which occurred in the Community Safety Net Services provider network.
 - b. Consider and act upon the recommendation of the Contracting and Compliance action plan.
 - Mr. Ulczynski updated members on the recent incident that occurred at one of the provider's agency. Thorough investigation conducted by Department of Family and Protective Services and determined finding of Unconfirmed. It is with this occurrence that ALA is taking action to prevent and protect individuals served.
 - Discussion followed in reviewing the proposed contracting and compliance action plan. The Quality Management Team will be working diligently in structuring forms to ensure process are specific to include all program areas/rules are set to the documentation of conducting the review.
 - A motion was made by Ms. Stephens to accept the Contracting and Compliance action plan, seconded by Ms. Hanlon-Hillis, the motion carried unanimously.
11. Discussion and update on ALA Programs.
 - Ms. Abundis reports an overview of Intake & Eligibility Program
 - >Intake & DID totals – 1250 unduplicated individuals served

- >Eligibility Determinations - 307
- >Consumer Benefits – 444
- >Intake activities– 499
- >Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID) - 113
- >Community Outreach – 3
- >HCS Interest List – 4584
- >GR Interest List - 592

- Ms. Charles gave an overview FY 2015 Service Authorizations Current census in GR program – 885 active
 - >Overview of FY 2015 GR Obligations \$1,105,592.51 and Utilization of \$789,041.31
 - >Census in PASRR – 623 active
 - >New Program: Enhanced Community Coordination, Brian Lopez is the Enhanced Community Coordinator.
 - SSLC Community Placements – 5
 - PASRR Transitions - 12
 - >Community First Choice (CFC)
 - Enrollments – 262
 - 47 Accepted, 58 Declined, 5 Withdrawals, 155 Pending (decisions/response by family)

Some of the challenges incurred have been returned mail, no telephone contact information and families hesitant to accept new program.

- Ms. Carter presented an overview of HCS program that includes:
 - >HCS Payment rate Changes 2014-15
 - >Monthly Average Cost per Individual Served by Setting FY13
 - >HCS Payment Rates FY15
 - >TX Long-Term Service and Supports (LTSS) Waiver Programs.
- Mr. Ulczynski presented 2 letters received from DADS in reference to Performance Measures and Outcome Targets for FY15, 2nd and 3rd Quarter
 - >2nd Quarter
 - HCS: 97% with HCS Statewide Average: 81%
 - TxHmL: 99% with TxHmL Statewide Average: 93%
 - Perm. Plan: 100% with Perm. Plan Statewide Average: 100%
 - >3rd Quarter
 - HCS: 99% with HCS Statewide Average: 81%
 - TxHmL: 100% with TxHmL Statewide Average: 93%
 - Perm. Plan: 100% with Perm. Plan Statewide Average: 100%

Ms. Diane Rath, Executive Director, acknowledged Susan Lodge and all of ALA staff for an excellent job on these ratings.

12. Discussion and update on Community First Choice Program implementation

- Ms. Charles presented an overview of the Community First Choice (CFC) program:
 - Enrollments – 262
 - 47 Accepted, 58 Declined, 5 Withdrawals, 155 Pending (decisions/response by family).

Some of the challenges incurred have been returned mail, no telephone contact information and families hesitant to accept new program.

- ALA will be hosting a meet and greet with the Managed Care Organizations MCO on October 22, 2015.
13. Report upon the recommendation to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) For an Electronic Health Records (EHR) System.
 - Mr. Ulczynski reports approval from AACOG Board of Directors to release an RFP for an electronic health records system in an effort to remain current with technology. It is essential and would improve the current system in place to be more efficient, accuracy and flexibility to update changes expeditiously.
 14. Discussion and update on the ALA Fiscal Year 2016 budget process and planned ALA activities.
 - Ms. Lodge touched on the following:
 - >Funding same from DADs
 - >AACOG budget update in December 2015
 - >State expanded training for board members
 - >Provider fair tentative in the month of November
 15. Discussion and update on Medicaid acute care rate cuts to therapy services.
 - Mr. Ulczynski updates members on Legislative HHSC informative acute care side to reduce rates in speech and PT/OT.
 - HHSC withdrew court order process and began again the rate review.
 16. Next meeting scheduled for December 8, 2015 at 1:00 pm.
 17. Adjournment
 - A motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm was made by Ms. Hanlon-Hillis, seconded by Ms. Valdez, the motion carried unanimously.