

HCBS QA Advisory Committee Meeting June 11, 2025

Attending

Sandi Gruberg, Lisa Robbe, Destinie Buzzard, Melissa Randles, Sara Coleman, Ann Vasilev, Madison Guscott, Lonnie keesee, Ryan Hilton, Angela Randle, Jamie Coonts, Marci Arthur, Hilary Napshere, Ivanova Smith, Sue Halle, Calerie Kindschy, Traci Hoppis, Debbie Chapman, Darci Ladwig, Michelle Williams, Will Nichol, Paul Davis, Teresa Martin, Catherine Higgins, Ashly Flores, Linda Hyatt, Katrina Davis, Samantha Smithingell, Leila Graves, Ann Vasilev, Resa Hayes, Karen Williams, Michelle Sturdevant, Lori Gianetto, Marco Tan, Kris Pederson

Brandi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Steering Committee Update (Brandi Monts)

This committee is working on how to expand the Advisory membership and orientation. Committee members talked about the make up of the selection committee, application parameters, orientation for new members and the process to start this new way of member participation. The goal is to have more diversity on the larger group.

Orientation process content is being worked on. Videos and ground rules are being created. The group talked about giving new people a “buddy” and make content easier to understand.

The ask of the bigger group this fall will be: Are you ready to step down,; have you served for three or more years? Are you willing to serve on a selection committee?

Transportation Changes in Waiver Program (Maddison Guscott)

Has expanded to other waivers and community services. She continues to explore other providers options throughout the state. Especially rural areas. They have reached out to various providers or brokers connected to HCA. If you know of someone who would like to contract please contact Maddison Guscott at maddison.guscott@dshs.wa.gov.

She would like to create a list to get out to people. She will send document or links to send out to the Committee. They are trying to make the process simple and easy for people to go through.

Access Rule and SIS (Marco Tan)

Q&A to include Access Rule and SIS: Addressing a feasibility study to simplify the developmental disabilities assessment process - Plain Talk CMS Access Rule.

If people see a reduction in hours, that comes from the assessment, and a case manager should be able to explain the reduction.

CARE Assessment Intensity Scale – (Parents) The algorithm has changed, and the hours have changed. Is there a way to acknowledge or inform the family of why that is.

If hours dropped, you could petition. If a case manager is not able to explain then speak with the supervisor on why they have dropped.

Please feel free to reach out to Marco Tan with questions about HCBS Access Rule requirements. Email is marco.tan@dshs.wa.gov and my phone # is 360-890-2208.

Personal Care Tasks for Waiver Services (Leila Graves)

DDCS is working on a waiver redesign and potentially adding personal care as part of in-person waiver services (like Life Skills and Community Engagement) and are looking for feedback on this idea. They plan to meet with stakeholders and internal staff to collect feedback as well (e.g. LRCC, self-advocate committee, DDCS staff) so everyone has an opportunity to think more about it and provide input. Please help us gather feedback and submit those ideas to the inbox: ☐☐ no later than **August 22nd**. Here is a report as reference: [24-1119 DDA Waiver Restructure Report corrected.pdf](#).

Questions to consider and help with providing feedback:

- What are things you want to make sure we think about if we add ADL support to waiver services?
 - What personal care tasks do you need providers to support you with?
 - Do you want your waiver service provider to provide the personal care you need? Or someone else?
- What kind of training oversight would you expect DDCS to require and expect of providers?
 - Considerations:

- § CPR certified?
- § Support in the bathroom?
- § Any other credentials or trainings to consider?

Sexual Health (Destinie Buzzard, Chelsi Edinger)

DDCS gave background on the agenda because this was asked that sexual health be a waiver service. The request to add a new service to the waiver for sex education was denied.

Now people will have the choice of utilizing other licensed therapists to get their needs met.

Intake and Service Request (Will Nichol, Catherine Higgins, Kat Gehring)

Three programs: intake, eligibility and service referral.

Data shows an average in applications for enrollment of 14% largest is under autism. DDCS offers an adaptive assessment. Transitioning to a more adaptive, inclusive assessment.

There is no more case manager outreach being conducted with the elimination of the NPS case managers.

372 Report (Ryan Hilton)

Ryan reviewed the report and shared that it is every service and participant included. The report shows what services in the community are cost effective. There is a delay in gathering the data because providers have up to a year to report.

This report IFS waiver wellness education is the top participant. People are choosing waivers by the service needed.

Community Conversation (Wil Nichol)

Will presented and reviewed the Legislative NPS report. He reviewed those initially eligible and demographic information. Now that NPS case managers are no longer available there are questions on how to respond to people on the caseload.

To request a service, applicants are asked to call the toll-free number by county. Use the 800 number, which will be checked daily, or visit/call a local office.

Legislative Update Marci Arthur)

Marci talked about bills that passed the legislature and 1390 did not pass.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=1130&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=5253&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=5394&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=1490&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=5393&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

DSHS Reimagine (Kris Pederson)

Kris talked about reimagine. The biggest impact will be combining the three administrations into two. This was done to strengthen DSHS. All state operated facilities and services will be under one administration. All contracted services in the community will be under the other administration. The hope is that this summer they will begin to engage w/ the public to increase efficiencies.

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request>

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/alert/organizational-changes-dshs>

They are working on streamlining intake and eligibility and working on expansion into a regional advisory council. The focus will be on the regional areas and what needs to be done.

Next Meeting

Update on new member process.