

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

JULY 30, 2024, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CENTRAL TIME

Summary of Meeting Themes:

- Mathematica provided an update on the next steps for submission of the waiver application. There will be a public comment period and listening sessions on the waiver application this fall.
- Next, Mathematica shared details about the transition process between the Child and Youth waiver to the Adult and Aging waiver. Steering Committee members gave the following feedback:
 - Thinking about provider capacity and provider readiness for these age-based waivers is key, as providers may not be enrolled in the correct waiver for the population that they are currently supporting.
 - Transitioning between waivers might be a smoother process if the transition happened on the first of the month following a member's birthday, rather than the exact date of the birthday. Currently, there are budgeting and logistical challenges in the funding systems for the Consumer Choice Option (CCO) when transitions happen mid-month.
 - Developing a "Plan B" transition plan may be beneficial, as timing may not always work out to support a six-month transition between waivers.
 - Applying for other benefits and supports such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) should also be included as part of the transition process and may need to occur at age 18 rather than age 21.
 - Creating additional communication materials would be helpful, including the following:
 - A guide explaining how the Child and Youth waiver works with Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).
 - A resource explaining how the Child and Youth waiver interacts with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), given that people can stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26 and the Child and Youth waiver is for those up to age 21.
- Committee members also noted the benefits of the Adult and Aging waiver, as people with disabilities (such as those with Down syndrome) may experience aging differently and need access to certain services sooner than people who are not disabled.
- Mathematica gave a status update on waitlist policy and procedures. The Steering Committee members shared the following insights:
 - Communicating about the waitlist process is important. It needs to be clear that the first assessment to get on the waitlist is only a pre-screen, and the Level of Care (LOC) assessment is not changing. The waitlist screening will continue to include the Waiver Priority Needs Assessment form information, like questions about caregiver status, housing, risk of abuse/neglect, and ability to meet basic health and safety needs. People also need to know they can be rescreened based on need at any time.

- The ability to see someone's status on the waitlist would give more transparency and would provide hope to those waiting.
- Finally, Mathematica shared with the Steering Committee the publicly available tools and resources that can be used to share information about the waiver redesign process. These resources include:
 - [Steering Committee materials and summaries](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs)
 - Social media posts on [Iowa Medicaid's Facebook page](#)
 - HOME Newsletter: To sign up for the newsletter, please fill out the [Expression of Interest Form](#)
- Steering Committee members requested that HHS hold a focus group on improving coordination for CCO to smooth out operations. Committee members noted that many members could not pay employees on time due to confusion and complication with recent rate increases. Though all welcomed and celebrated the rate increase, the complications with CCO were largely related to a lack of collaboration and communication between HHS/Medicaid, Veridian, and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). This impacted CCO members and their employees. HHS responded that they are exploring this and starting conversations.
 - The recommendation was made to consider videos and materials about the CCO program in languages other than English to support refugees and immigrants.
- The next steering committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27.