**Policy Committee Minutes**

**Monday, 2-10-2020**

**10 AM – 12 PM**

Welcome and Introductions

Core Committee Members on call- Diane Beastrom, Chair; Scott DeLong, Co-Chair; Dave Rastoka, Tim Neville, Ryan Knodel, Jeff Johnson, Jo Spargo,

* Policy Committee Structure
  + The Committee talked briefly about the redesign of the core committee and the items that will be discussed at the meetings.
  + The meeting will continue to receive relevant updates from the OPRA Committees but the committee will also address many topics that impact the entire spectrum of services our members offer, including workforce, sustainability, simplification, MUIs, trust for providers, and there may be many other potential topics. On the second Monday in March the Polity Committee will meet and by then the Majority of the Core Committee members will be identified and in place.
  + OPRA staff are working on demographic information on each of the Core Committee members in an effort to identify the size of the provider, location in the state and the type of services they provide. This data will used to identify where the Core Committee may have to focus efforts to identify members that will “balance” perspective and experience.
  + Next steps will include discussions about who will have to fill the empty spots on the committee and further discussions about the structure and procedures related to the committee.
* BEST
  + Scott Marks gave an update on the BEST proposal
  + CMS would not give approval of the BEST framework as two similar, but slightly different services at the same time for voc hab. CMS has given preliminary approval of one service that is tiered.
  + DODD hopes to have the waiver amendment filed and approved by CMS by November 1, 2020. The goals is to have an effective date of December 1, 2020.
  + Rule implementation workgroup will have to rework the rule to encompass the tiered approach
* Blueprint
  + Scott Marks gave update on DODD’s Blueprint for Day and Employment Services workgroup.
  + The Charter of the workgroup was sent out to the Committee. The goal of the workgroup is to give Director Davis suggestions and recommendation on how to best improve day array and employment services.
  + The workgroup intends to have the suggestions by the end of the year. Any rule/service/waiver changes would be developed and implemented after the suggestions were accepted or rejected.
  + Scott gave an overview of the day array provider site visits he and the other OPRA representatives have conducted. From the visits, he, the other OPRA representatives on the workgroup, and the Day Array Committee have developed “we believes” and areas with the highest priority for change. A full list can be seen in the presentation for the webinar.
    - **Opportunities**- simplify fee structure and redesign integrated employment supports similar to ticket to work that incentivizes providers getting people jobs they can keep-
    - Redesign group employment supports
    - Rate for individualized or small group services in the community to align founding with philosophy
    - Gave pitfalls and areas of concern-
  + Committee feedback- how are ICFs being considered in the employment conversations? ICFs programs and funding need to be considered when looking at changes to day service structure and rates. If Employment First continues to apply to ICFs, the workgroup needs to consider how will the initiative will impact the services.
* Single Plan/Single Assessment
  + Scott Marks gave an update on the piloting of the assessment and shared screenshots from the assessment.
  + If you are piloting please give your most honest feedback to DODD!
  + Conversations are moving to focus on the plan.
  + To build the plan the workgroup is considering a variety of questions: who is the plan for? For DSPs to provide services? To be for the individual to plan their supports? For financial planning? For all parties?
  + There is mixed consensus from the members of the state workgoup.
  + OPRA believes the ISP needs to be the primary tool for DSPs to know what they are expected of them. We don’t want providers to have to rework them entirely to get DSPs relevant information.
  + DODD evolving their stance on IT platforms and will likely have an IT platform to help streamline the roll out of the single plan.
  + DODD does seem open to having vendors hosting the assessment and plan but the platforms would need be interoperable.
* Provider Certification
  + Christine Touvelle and Scott Marks gave an update on the Provider Certification rule.
  + The workgroup has moved to the independent provider rule.
  + Will not likely see the rules go through the clearance process until the fall.
* Medicaid
  + Christine Touvelle overviewed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announcement that they would allow states to pursue block grants for healthy, childless adults (Health Adult Opportunity).
  + It is unclear if Ohio will take advantage of the opportunity.
  + Unlike the Trump administration’s attempt to roll out block grants in Medicaid, this would only apply to a small group of Medicaid beneficiaries. It would not impact most of the services OPRA Members provide but could threaten Medicaid for some DSPs.
  + The change was announced through a change in policy direction, not through a change in rule so there is no opportunity to formally provide feedback to CMS unless a state applies for the 1115 waiver.
  + Christine Touvelle also gave a brief overview of an RFI released by the Ohio Department of Medicaid on the managed care re-procurement process.
* Member Topics-
  + MUI- Scott DeLong- county prosecutors getting involved when investigative agents press them to get involved. Bridge to Equality is starting to look at information on differences between geographic areas/IAs. The environment is having strong implications with staff and the overall workforce crisis.
  + DODD Waiver workgroup- Jamie Steele and Pete Moore discussed how information flows from the Policy Committee to the Waiver Workgroup.
  + The role of APSI- what are some steps a provider can take when you don’t agree with some of the decisions made by APSI, especially when you think it puts an individual at risk.
  + A suggestion was made that Policy Committee request some time with DODD’s main policy people to discussed priorities and initiatives.