

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
POLICY & BARRIERS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

**Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2010 2:00pm**

Call to Order, Roll Call

Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart called meeting to order at 2:04pm and asked each person present to introduce himself/herself.

Committee Members Present:

Jean Langendorf
Marc Gold
Paige McGilloway
Jim Hanophy
Michael Goodwin

Committee Members Absent:

Felix Briones
Paula Margeson
Jonas Schwartz

TDHCA Staff Present:

Elizabeth Yevich
Ashley Schweickart
Marshall Mitchell

Approval of May 27th Meeting Minutes

Ashley Schweickart asked for any changes to the May 27th meeting minutes. Jean Langendorf made a small change to the header of the document. A motion was made to accept the minutes given this edit and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion of Draft Chapter Edits

Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart began the discussion of edits or changes to the draft Chapter 5 of the Biennial Plan. Preliminary edits had been submitted by a few Committee members and were read aloud.

Regulatory Requirements and Limitations

The Committee first discussed including the Community Attendant Service program to the Medicaid Financial Eligibility section. They also discussed adding in language distinguishing the functional eligibility requirements for individuals with physical disabilities versus development disabilities. The Committee then discussed specifying which 1915(c) waiver programs required the functional eligibility criteria.

Committee next discussed adding clarifying language about ineligible populations, to state that those with co-occurring disorders (in addition to mental illness) may be eligible for Medicaid.

Committee next discussed the addition of language with the 'Social Security' subsection about how those consumers on SSDI are the ones most disadvantaged by SGA rules.

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Committee next discussed changing the 'Public Housing & Criminal History' subsection title, since many private developments accept Section 8 vouchers as well. Additionally, language was revised to clarify the connection between rental assistance, criminal history, and mental illness.

Administrative Limitations & Limited Coordination

The Committee next discussed clarifying that multiple state agency programs have federal requirements requiring that the program be a 'payer of last resort.'

Committee next discussed adding in language regarding the fragmentation of housing funding amongst federal agencies.

Committee then discussed adding into the 'Federal Eligibility Requirements' subsection language about programs which require the use of both federal poverty level and SSI levels to determine eligibility.

Funding Limitations

Committee next discussed adding language to the 'Medicaid State Plan' subsection about the vulnerability of Medicaid waivers to legislative discretion, due to the funding coming from annual state appropriations.

Consumer Barriers

Committee next discussed adding in language from the ADA concerning the rules on local availability of paratransit and the definition of disability. There are concerns regarding the interpretation of this definition and how a lack of statewide standardization unfairly penalizes certain populations.

Committee next discussed adding a small paragraph on the barrier of program complexity, especially regarding consumer eligibility, which causes confusion and frustration among consumers in need.

Discussion of Biennial Plan Recommendations

Ashley Schweickart then initiated a discussion of the performance measures chapter of the Biennial Plan. Committee members discussed how the Council does not have any control over which Plan recommendations will be adopted or funded, as this is the responsibility of the Legislature.

Committee discussed changing the chapter to deal with the goals or benchmarks of the Council. This could be in the form of a status report, chronicling the accomplishments of the Council thus far in meeting the legislative mandate. The Council also discussed setting some goals for distributing the Biennial Plan and the outreach effort to undertake.

Finally, the Committee discussed setting out what the Council proposes and the goals for the future.

Discussion of Next Steps for Committee

Committee's next conference call is now set for Thursday, June 24th at 10:30am. The Committee will discuss a set of preliminary service policy recommendations.

Adjourned

There being no further business, the Council Coordinator adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.