



Eric Holcomb, Governor  
State of Indiana

*Division of Aging*  
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**CHOICE Board Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2023  
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN  
Wabash Hall Conference Rooms 4 and 5**

Attendees were able to join virtually over Zoom.

The meeting was livestreamed and is available on the FSSA Indiana YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@fssaindianavideos/streams>

Hannah Carlock, CHOICE Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (ET).

Members in attendance: Chair Hannah Carlock, Vice Chair Laurie Mullet, Representative Ed Clere, Dr. JoAnn Burke, Leslie Huckleberry, Senator Jean Breaux, James Leich

Members not in attendance: Senator Ed Charbonneau, Megan Smith, Beth Schoenfeld, Representative Carolyn Jackson

Hannah stated a quorum was not present so approval of May minutes and elections would be on hold until the next meeting.

Peggy Welch, Chief Advocacy Officer for FSSA, presented Indiana's Direct Service Workforce Plan in the context of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Reform. The plan is to create and implement a data-driven, community-informed, state-wide plan--Indiana Direct Service Workforce Plan—to improve the recruitment, training, support, and retention of Direct Service Workers (DSWs) across home and community-based settings. Direct Service Workforce development has been addressed as a critical issue because of managed LTSS, but is an initiative that is larger, and encompasses more, than just managed LTSS. An informative Q & A period followed.

Leslie Huckleberry, Director of the Division of Aging, reported on leadership changes within FSSA, most notably the impending departure of Allison Taylor as Director of Medicaid. Cora Steinmetz is coming in as the new Director of Medicaid and will be leaving her role in the governor's office as Health Policy Director. Leslie also mentioned another Medicaid addition is a new Care Programs director. Holly Cunningham Piggott has come on board to oversee all the managed care programs in Medicaid which will include PathWays, HIP, Hoosier HealthWise, and Hoosier CareConnect.



Another update from Leslie was regarding a shift in the timeline for rolling out the waiver eligibility process. Earlier in the year, Maximus was awarded the contract to do statewide waiver eligibility functions and PASRR functions. In looking at the timeline for that, alongside implementation of PathWays in July 2024, we are going to take a phased-in approach of that contract with Maximus. Today, they are doing PASRR functions as Ascend, as they are who our contract is with, and we will be moving that PASRR work to this new contract in early 2024. Then, PathWays will go live in July 2024, and the waiver eligibility function will go live under that contract in July 2025. Readiness for both PathWays going live and eligibility implementation necessitated the timeline adjustment. Also, concerning the expedited waiver eligibility, CMS approved including that in our permanent A & D waiver, and we are the first state in the country to have it in our permanent 1915c waiver. More information is forthcoming.

Erin Wright, Division of Aging, Director of Access & Engagement, presented case examples of CHOICE participant scenarios with the rollout of PathWays, the LTSS Reform. These examples introduce how the transitions and coordination between the different programs will occur and noted that this is an evolving process. This information is being presented now so that feedback and any concerns may be considered during this process. This also supports the efforts of our No Wrong Door planning grant to try to map out how people are accessing services with a goal of coming up with a plan for addressing any gaps or barriers for accessing information and services, regardless of public or private funding. A robust Q and A session was part of this presentation.

Kristen LaFace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), began with an update about the national AAA annual conference that was in mid-July. She also noted that her packet would be sent in two parts this month. At the conference, CICOA Aging and In-Home Services (AAA 8) was recognized with an innovative achievement award for their product called PostBook. PostBook is a guided pen pal product for inter-generational communication via handwriting. Kristen reported that Northwest Indiana Community Action Corporation (AAA 1) is finalizing a merger with a housing organization. While this is for the entire community for multiple populations, our older Hoosiers will benefit as well. This is the second AAA to merge with a housing organization in our network. Thrive Alliance (AAA 11) was the first.

Kristen also noted Thrive West Central (AAA 7), in Terre Haute, is housed within an economic development organization. The economic development organization side is the recipient of a significant READI grant which is a program of one of the economic development departments in Indiana. The legislature appropriates money for this grant program, and regional entities and local units of government can submit an economic development plan for different eligible activities. Thrive West Central focused their application on developing housing for their region.

In another matter, Kristen informed the board regarding draft regulations for the Older Americans Act that have been put out for comment, a couple of decades of statute updates which have not been promulgated through the regulation. They did an RFI in the spring, put out the draft comments in the draft reg in mid-June, and taking comments through mid-August. Kristen said comments will be submitted by I4A by the deadline in mid-August. More information is available in the education packet.

Hannah Carlock received a motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 3:02 p.m. (ET).