

**COMMUNITY AND IN-HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR  
THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

**November 19, 2015**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C**

**402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN**

**CHOICE Board Members in Attendance:** Jean Macdonald, Rep. Ed Clere, Lynn Clough, Senator Jean Leising, Andrew Weidekamp,

**CHOICE Board Members Absent:** Dorian Maples, Prudence Twigg, Senator Jean Breaux, Rep. Robin Shackelford

**Visitors in Attendance:** Orion Bell, Laura Holscher, Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Kathy Johnson, Angela Marino, Kathy Margis, Jennifer Olehy, Stacey Kahre, Joe Hemersbach

**Staff in Attendance:** Yonda Snyder, Debbie Pierson, Karen Gilliland, LaKeisha McCarter, Kayla Hickox

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Jean Macdonald called the meeting to order, and asked for approval of the September minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board. Jean asked for comments or changes to the Division of Aging Annual Report or from Debbie Pierson. Debbie said the Division of Aging is addressing questions from I-4A and trying to clarify expenditures versus allocations. They submitted the Annual Report on October 1<sup>st</sup> to meet the deadline. Debbie said they will send the Board the revised version.

Jean said one nominee to the CHOICE Board has been contacted by the Governor's office but she doesn't have any other information. Jean mentioned the training and forms Board members must complete. Karen Gilliland said they received the paperwork from the Governor's Office and Boards/Commissions must renew their information every two years, and members must also take the Ethics training. Karen said she would email the Board the direct link to the website for those who were having problems with the website.

**CHOICE 2.0 Project:** Angela Marino from Area 14 (Lifespan Resources, Inc.) introduced herself and her colleague. Angela said prior to the CHOICE pilot, they had approximately 265 individuals on their waitlist. When the pilot began in January 2015, they began looking at those clients and removing them from the waitlist, and by June 30<sup>th</sup> everyone had been removed from the CHOICE waitlist. Angela said everyone had begun services for various reasons: improved health, nursing home admission, etc. On October 1<sup>st</sup> they had to begin a waitlist, but the clients did receive assessments from OPTIONS counselors. She cited some of the challenges and obstacles they've had, such as staffing and capacity, intake and referral process, assessments, and the ongoing care management. One challenge initially was the needs-based assessments that were in addition to the assessment they do on individuals looking to receive services. It took them additional time at first but they worked through that; it's just a

daily routine for them now. She discussed other challenges and obstacles they've had to overcome. She also cited examples of some their successes, which include: increasing the number of individuals receiving services from 83 to 174, the cost-share per client increased from two persons to 18 with a cost-share. They've also been able to provide four bathroom modifications and two ramps to individuals. She also cited some of their clients' success stories.

Northeast Indiana Community Action Corporation's (Area 1) Kathy Margis said that from the beginning of 2015, they have seen a reduction in their CHOICE waitlist from 388 clients to 125. The top three reasons for the waitlist reduction: placing the client on non-waiver services, placing the client on waiver services, and/or the client couldn't be reached for reassessment. The top three reasons for being on the waitlist were attendant care, respite, and homemaker. With the CHOICE 2.0 pilot eligibility criteria, they were able to place 35 clients on CHOICE services that would otherwise not have been able to receive services. And because of the change in eligibility they were able to help 35 individuals and divert 176 people since January from the waiting list. The top ways they were able to divert them from the waiting list for services was through referring them to Medicaid PA, the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Money Follows the Person program. Kathy cited some challenges and obstacles they faced such as staffing, the amount of time it takes to do a comprehensive assessment, and entitlement issues, etc.

Jennifer Olehy cited some of their successes. They've been helping families with informal support such as creating a task list that helps committed family members who want to help stay on task. They have increased their number of cost-share clients. Last year they had 12 per month and now have 43 per month. Jennifer said they've had great success with many of their members embracing the concept.

Stacey Kahre, Director of Client Services for Generations (Area 15) said they started the CHOICE pilot in January 2015 with 170 clients and narrowed it down to 38, which is about a 76% reduction in waiting list clients. All 38 clients needed Home and Community-Based Services, and in order to serve them it would have cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year. Stacey said that out of the 170 clients, 55% were removed and provided with other resources, nineteen have a care plan pending, 16% are currently receiving CHOICE 2.0 services, and 10% of those were placed on the A&D waiver. Some of the clients were removed from the waiting list citing reasons such as the refusal to pay for the cost-share, 24% no longer met eligibility, 18% were in the nursing facility when they did their assessments, and 13% had passed away. Stacey said OPTIONS counseling was provided to the clients, and some did not meet level of care. Under the pilot, the cost of a care plan was reduced. For a normal CHOICE client, the cost is \$617 per client. With the pilot it's down to \$21, and they've also noticed an increase in informal support. Some initial challenges included determining cost-share. It was difficult for them to go into the home and talk to people about their finances or assets, but they've now gotten more accommodating to doing that. Another obstacle is getting to the clients quickly, which means they need monetary and staff capacity. She also cited a client's case that was unique to her area. Out of the 27 clients they've added to CHOICE 2.0, none have been admitted to a nursing home.

Joe Hemersbach, from Area IV on Aging & Community Action Program (Area 4) in Lafayette said its wait list went down 12%. At the beginning of the year, 431 clients were on their waiting list; 90% of those went to informal support, and 10% went into the nursing home or some other form of intensive care. They created a volunteer program for informal supports and they now have 91 volunteers. So far they've been able to help 73 clients. After getting into the pilot for several months, they realized they needed to hire several people and they are now up to capacity. Joe also cited a couple of their success cases.

**Division of Aging Update:** Debbie Pierson said a PASRR webinar was held with the vendor Ascend on October 30<sup>th</sup> for hospital discharge planners. Ascend was onsite November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for meetings with that group to plan their software and implementation schedule. The Division is working to schedule monthly webinars that will start maybe in December or January, and continue throughout the implementation schedule to keep people updated on what's going on. Stakeholders, the area agencies on aging, hospitals, and nursing homes will all get invitations to participate in the webinars. The Division will also do a newsletter once a month to keep stakeholders up-to-date, and anticipate continuing the newsletter after July 1<sup>st</sup> as a means of training and updating people on any changes. Actual training for all the stakeholders involved on both the software and completing level of care forms will happen in May and June. The companion project OPTIONS counseling will have its first meeting Friday with a select group of area agencies staff. They have four meetings scheduled between now and January.

Debbie reminded the Board about the e-mail invitations sent out last Friday inviting them to a forum on December 16<sup>th</sup> on Rebalancing for the Future. Debbie said she would re-send the e-mail invitations as a reminder.

**I-4A Update:** Kristen LaEace said they are finally finalizing their public policy agenda for fiscal year 2016. The Commission on Aging heard about legislation related to Adult Protective Services (APS) that will be proposed. Kristen said one thing happening at the federal level is that they did agree to fund the federal government for 2016 and increased money that can be considered for restoration relief and are trying to figure out how to divvy up the money. Kristen said now is the time to advocate for the Older Americans Act (OAA). She gave the Board a short synopsis of what's going to be happening in the discharge planning proposed rule, and she encouraged everyone to submit comments.

Kristen went over items in her educational packet which included a report by LeadingAge Pathways Initiative on how we as a country finance long-term care, two articles about Medicaid's role in Home and Community-Based Services, two articles on caregiving and national caregiving month, and articles on elder abuse, etc. She asked the Board if they had any questions about anything she had presented.

**Public Comments:** Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Indiana Association for Home & Hospice Care (IAHHC) Membership Services Director, wanted to thank the Board for the updates for Hoosier Care Connect and HIP 2.0. She wished to address how Hoosier Care Connect impacts the aged, blind, and disabled populations. IAHHC is continuing to work with the managed care entities. According to the Indiana Administrative Code and the OMPP Medical Policy manual, there are home health services exempt from

prior authorization post-admission hospital discharge. Michelle commented about the problems with hospice and Hoosier Care Connect. A handout was given to members of the Board.

Karen Gilliland reminded the Board the next meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m., in order to facilitate the legislators' attendance.

With no further business, Jean Macdonald adjourned the meeting.