

External Program Review Committee (EPRC) minutes

Date of meeting: December 3, 2020

DSD liaison: Stacie Enders, Linda Wolford and Ari Dionisopoulos

Type: Whole committee

Location: Remote only due to the COVID-19 health pandemic

Attendees: Jodi Greenstein, Kim Frost, Dan Baker, Laura Daire, Melanie Eidsmoe, Tatiana Kerestesh, Stacy Danov, Mary Piggott and Liz Harri

Not present: Mike Boston, Danielle Bishop, Susie Haben and Lindsay Nash

Agenda items

Public comments

There were no public comments during the meeting.

Vote on previous meeting minutes

Those in favor of approving the November 2020 meeting minutes:

- Stacy Danov: yes
- Melanie Eidsmoe: yes
- Tatiana Kerestesh: yes
- Mary Piggott: yes
- Liz Harri: yes
- Laura Daire: yes
- Kim Frost: yes
- Dan Baker: yes
- Jodi Greenstein: yes

Updates to share

- The Positive Support Transition Plan (PSTP), review form and instructions will be published either in December or January. Directly after the January EPRC whole committee meeting, members will have the opportunity to stay and listen to a practice run of the public presentation being prepared to introduce the PSTP changes. Attendance of this presentation is optional, and members are welcome to provide feedback on the presentation to help the presenters make the information clear and easy to follow for the public.
- Updates on work being done to address the statewide workforce shortage were shared:
 - [Temporary staffing help is now available for residential service providers during Covid-19.](#)
 - DHS staff are forming an internal group and data sharing page to better coordinate and communicate on work being done across the Disability Services Division to improve the

workforce shortage. Part of this group's focus will be improving public communication on this topic.

- The new public webpage is still in progress but will hopefully be published in the coming weeks.
- The Innovation Grant awards related to the workforce shortage have been made, but the contracts are still going through the signatures process, so DHS cannot publically share the information quite yet.
- Additional workforce data will be collected by DHS starting in 2021. The data will be provided by service providers and is legislatively mandated. More information on this topic can be found under [Minn. Stat. 256B.4912](#).
- PCA services and CDCS/CSG budgets will receive a [temporary 8.4% increase](#).
- There were two recent policy changes:
 - Parents of minor children and spouses may bill up to 40 hours a week for PCA services. This is a temporary policy change and more information about the requirements can be obtained by calling (651) 431-2700, option 4, or toll free at 800-366-5411.
 - The number of hours a PCA can work was increased from 275 hours to 310 hours. This is a permanent change.

Discussion

- The committee reviewed and edited a draft of their annual Olmstead report. The report will be published on the [EPRC's webpage](#) in 2021.
 - Vote: to approve the Olmstead report draft, but with the changes we discussed at this meeting (this includes Dan Baker's recommendations, updates to member profiles and minor grammatical/phrasing changes):
 - Dan Baker: yes
 - Melanie Eidsmoe: yes
 - Tatiana Kerestesh: yes
 - Jodi Greenstein: yes
 - Kim Frost: yes
 - Liz Harri: yes
 - Stacy Danov: abstain (She needed to step away from the meeting temporarily but did not oppose the committee holding a vote at this meeting. Dan Baker volunteered to email her his edits.)
 - Mary Piggott: yes
 - Laura Daire: yes
- Both subcommittees provided updates.
 - The Requests for Approval Subcommittee recognizes that people are doing their best to support others, despite Covid-19 outbreaks and staffing shortages.
 - The number of people the Emergency Use of Manual Restraint (EUMR) Subcommittee has needed to follow has decreased steadily over the past several years.
- No questions or comments were brought up related to Covid-19 and the [Positive Supports Rule, Minn. R. 9544](#).

- The quality of life tools the EPRC created in early 2020 have now been reviewed by stakeholders, people receiving services and family members. Stacie Enders will incorporate the feedback received and then get those documents to the communications team for publishing.
- What is going well? What should we change? What have we learned?
 - Everyone continues to keep moving along and working to support people despite being remote.
 - Some teams have reported strained relationships between service providers and emergency responders.
 - For example, in one Minnesota community, the police will send a financial penalty to households if they call emergency services more than two times in a year.
 - Crisis waiver services are underutilized in some regions, and some regions don't have access to those services.
 - The DHS Community Capacity and Positive Supports team has been discussing this topic and will report back to the committee as new information is available.