

## **MFP External Partner Meeting**

**December 9th, 2025, meeting was held virtually due to weather**

### **Life Skills and Transition Center Updates**

Keith Vavrovsky provided an update for Life Skills and Transition Center.

- Serving 48 people currently; 31 adults and 17 youth in residence
- Updated on upcoming discharges. The goal is to transition to a less restrictive setting after the individuals stay
- Reviewed positions that range across the state and staff asking about intervention methods trialed
- For about 5 years, Life Skills and Transition Center have been participating in Regional Review Meetings in coordination with other agencies

### **Developmental Disability Section Updates**

No remarkable items to highlight for DD Section. No update given at this meeting.

### **Adult and Aging Updates**

Nancy Maier and Sandi Erber provided updates for Adult and Aging.

- Updates given regarding the changes to Supervision for SPED and HCBS Waiver in detail. Waiver averages per year have risen in the last year. High level of care services on the waiver have caused the averages to increase.
- Transition and Diversion Program fully funded and available to assist when an individual is not eligible for Money Follows the Person. A new chapter was created for the Transition and Diversion Program which will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- \$300,000 for continued funding to TPM Rental Assistance was approved. A chapter was created to govern TPM Rental Assistance which will go into place on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- Some comments were given for feedback regarding funding and programs
- Adult Foster Care chapter will have changes
- Sandi Erber reported on approval for Waiver Amendment to rates, HCBS Care coordination, case management monitoring visit requirements, clarifying information and adding language, and changes to proposed language in NDAC
  - Rate changes reviewed in detail; increased competitive rates
  - Case management services under the waiver were redefined

- Visit requirements reviewed. Discussed when the in-person quarterly monitoring visit is required
- Waiver and proposed NDAC live in provider changes go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Eligible individuals for family personal care are not eligible to receive personal care under the Medicaid waiver program from a provider who lives in the same home as the individual. If you live with your family member, the service must be provided under Family Personal Care Service.
- Supervision Services changes discussed

### **Year in Review**

Kayla Trzpuc reviewed Money Follows the Person statistics within the last year.

- 50 participants for the collaborative, 70 training hours, 97 transitions, 286 referrals seeking transition, 339 team meetings, 573 purchase requests processed, \$10.3 million in expenses

### **MFP Data and Facts**

- Total referrals were 286 broken down by individual populations served: child, Physical Disability (PD), Elder, Developmental Disability (DD)
- 520 transitions within years 2022 to 2026, overall total Transitions since the beginning of Money Follows the Person is 1149
- Benchmark of 135 for 2025; currently at 90 out of 135. 2026 total benchmark goal is 100

### **Transition and Diversion Program Updates**

Heidi Zimmerman, TDP Program Administrator, reviewed updates.

- New contracts were sent out on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to the Centers for Independent Living and Minot State Housing
- TDP Data reviewed; TDP referral count for 2025 is 623
- Total Transitions from the start of the program is 978 and total Diversions since the start of the program is 813
- This year over 500 participants have been Diverted in 2025 out of the 623 referrals made in 2025

### **Housing Partner Updates**

Cheryl Merk gave Housing Partner Updates.

- Tuesday Trainings have wrapped up with multiple training sessions provided by different entities throughout the state of North Dakota
- MFP staff are working toward being certified in ADA training. 41 credits are required for the training
- Vouchers in bigger communities are either closed or have a 5 year wait time. Housing Facilitation staff are finding resources or landlords willing to house individuals
- Highlighted a staff achievement in the field with work toward both housing and modifications needed for the individuals
- Current interviews being conducted to fill open positions with hopes to hire soon

Jennifer Henderson with North Dakota Housing and Finance Agency updated on opening the program year with changes and suggestions with the first public meeting happening at the beginning of January. Website updates will be given for meeting dates and times.

### **Tribal Initiative**

Melissa Reardon was unable to attend. Updates given by Kayla Trzruc.

- Continuing to work with Home Instead in the MHA nation area
- 5 MFP tribal states were in Washington State in October 2025 for a Learning Collaborative
- Please reach out to Melissa Reardon with any questions

### **MFP Capacity Funds**

Kayla Trzruc reviewed MFP Capacity Funds.

- \$5 million dollar enhancement given to promote rebalancing efforts and planning/capacity building activities to accelerate long term services and support system transformation design
- Projects that have been completed: LTSS options counseling, DOJ support, MFP admin support, ambassador kits, person centered competency, HCBS incentive grants
- Remote work technology, companionship, peer support, QSP Connect to Care and Council on Quality Leadership are ongoing projects with some projects wrapping up at the end of 2025 and others will continue to be ongoing
- Administrative Projects: LTSS Options Counselors were funded utilizing this source as well as MFP Project Director, MFP Transition Services Specialist, and the DOJ Support Specialist

- Options Counseling Process reviewed which includes daily referrals, presentations, and person-centered planning. 3803 individuals were reached in 2024 by 10 staff members. Roughly 120 facilities throughout North Dakota including hospitals, nursing facilities, and swing beds
- Admin Support includes both the DOJ Settlement Support Specialist and Transition Services Specialist
- Completed Projects include the HCBS Provider Incentive Grants; over 20 grants provided. 10% funds were utilized to help offer support to more agencies
- Nearly Completed Projects include the ND Assistive Ambassador Kits which provided 25 assistive technology kits to rural areas
- Remote Work Technology provided cell phone upgrades, printers/shredders, home visitor kits, and onboarding kits
- Peer Support Project has one dedicated staff member from Independence in Minot to provide Peer Support to individuals
- Person Centered Competency curriculum was developed by bringing two in person work groups to collaborate with HSRI and the University of Kansas City Missouri for project development of Person Centered Competency
  - Hired a training coordinator to do Train the Trainer
  - 9 trainers throughout the state to assist in 4 of the 5 modules
  - Time spent training per module reviewed with a total of 14 hours of Facilitators time needed for the 5 modules
- Companionship project was wrapped up September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In 2025 over 46 individuals served. A rebalancing project was started with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
- The Council on Quality Leadership assisted 24 providers in licensing. Funding will still be available on a case-by-case basis for areas of the state that have limited providers
- QSP Hub has a new contract in 2026 funded through a Sustainability Plan
- Provider Registry referred to as “Direct Care Careers” will continue to evolve

### **MFP Programmatic Requirements**

- Submitted revised operational protocol, some adjustments will need to be made
- General feedback has been provided with two technical assistance meetings
- Granted a no-cost extension to 9/30/2027

### **Quality Measure Set**

- MFP states need to report no later than September 2026

- NCI-AD survey and NCI-IDD survey will be included
- States are to select two measures for quality improvement

Next meeting date is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Feedback given that a combination of in-person and virtual is preferred. Meeting invites will be sent out.