

## **MFP External Partner Meeting**

**February 17th, 2026, meeting was held virtually**

### **Life Skills and Transition Center Updates** - Kayla Trzpuć for Keith Vavrovsky

- 30 adults
- 16 youth
- One set discharge
- 3 pending discharges
- No pending admissions
- Currently doing regional reviews to see if Life Skills would be a good fit for an individuals.

### **Developmental Disability Section Updates** – Travis Schmidt

- Waiver is currently open for amendment. June 1, 2026, the amendment should be in effect.
- Changes: Adding a Privat Duty Nursing agencies and Host home.
- Host homes will assist families during time of crisis providing a private home.
- Changes for Internal Processes by changing in terminology Example: Human Service Centers to DD Units, Social Service Zone to Human Service Zone. Update that relatives (not guardians) can live in the home of the individuals and provide services under homemaker, HIS Respite and FCO.
- Please review DD Power Point for additional information.

### **Adult and Aging Updates/ Department of Justice Comparison Dashboard** –Nancy Nikolas Maier

- DOJ settlement agreement is starting year 6.
- Aging services LTSS OC DOJ SA Annual Comparison Dashboard was reviewed.
- 5,020 visits took place by LTSS OC over the course of the settlement agreement.
- 563 individuals stated that they would like to explore transition. 208 of the individuals are still pending transition 165 have completed transition. 56 of the individuals are receiving HCBS services.
- HCBS case managers have a weighted case load of 125 per case load.
- 4 HCBS case managers have been hired to assist with caseloads. Would like the HCBS Case Mangers caseloads to a 100-110.

- SPED program has grown the most starting at 1,488 in 2021 and is now 1,791. Medicaid Waiver numbers started at 419 and now 729 individuals receive Medicaid Waiver.
- 9,027 total HCBS referrals since 2021 with 4,831 total open cases. The reasons as to why more cases are not opened are due to...
  - Waiting to hear from applicant
  - Waiting on MA eligibility
  - Waiting on financial verification
  - Waiting on Medical or OT evaluation or Transition from a facility.
- 1,621 individuals since 2021 were diverted from a SNF.
- Case managers used to work for county; however, there was a switch over making them all state workers. This has helped streamline intake and eligibility. ADRL was also formed because of this by having 6 workers answering calls across the state.
- MFP has been a great asset for the state of North Dakota in working with the settlement agreement.
- 2021 -91 transitions Highest year was 2024 with 139 transitions.
- There have been decreases with MFP transitions due to the Transition Diversion Program in assisting individuals in a diversion instead of being admitted to the SNF.
- Future is trying to sustain all programs.
- DOJ Settlement agreement has benchmarks up to year 7 with 1 year of maintenance.

### **Master Plan on Aging – Jacki Seefeldt**

- Multigenerational (MPA) year. 10 year living document about community and public input.
- Four main goals of the MPA
  - Services closer to Home – North Dakotans will be able to live in their setting of their choice with they support they need.
  - Futures Planning
  - Social Engagement & Accessibility
  - Workforce
- ND does a plan every 4 years for OAA
  - Plan is due to ACL by July 1, 2026, with an effective date of October 1, 2026.
- Medicaid Waiver
  - Renewal is due every 5 years.
  - Renewal will be submitted in fall of 2026 with an effective date of April 1, 2027.

- ND DHS Aging & Adult Services administers the following state and federal programs
  - ADRL
  - Support Caregivers
  - Protective Services
  - Administer Older American Act Services
  - Support In-Home and Community Based Services

### **MFP Data – Kayla Trzpuć**

- Not everyone receiving MFP is a TPM. Settlement agreement is focused on a LOC of 90 or longer where the MFP grant is focused on everyone who is within a SNF for 60 days or longer.
- Still serving a lot of elders who are 65 years or older.
- MFP is receiving 30 referrals a month.
- MFP has successfully transitioned over 1,000 individuals. When MFP was first developed the goal was to transition 100 individuals.
- MFP 2026 Benchmark – 100 Total
  - 40 Physical Disability
  - 40 Elders
  - 15 Developmental Disabilities
  - 5 Children
- Submitted received Operational Protocol (OP). All MFP states will develop their own OP however, using the same format from CMS.
- MFP Capacity Funding Project wrapping up.
- MFP States need to report no earlier than Sept 2026 for Quality Measure Set.

### **Quality Measure Set Updates – Mike McCloud**

- Review to QMS Power Point

### **Transition Diversion Program Updates – Heidi Zimmerman**

- Administrative Code was published at the beginning of the year.
- Continuation of 10% funds
- Most referrals are Physical Disability
- Total of 984 transitions since 2020.
- Total of 860 diversions since 2022.

## **Housing Partner Updates** – Cheryl Merck

- Tuesday training ended in December of 2025 and will start again in April 2026. On average, 75 people attend trainings.
- Great partnership with the Housing Authorities across the state.
- MFP Housing Facilitators are working to be certified in ADA Coordinators. There will be 11 ADA Coordinators across the state.
- Rural communities were able to port vouchers from small communities to larger cities, however, had to stop porting them. Currently having people out of state trying to get vouchers within ND and then port them to a different state.
- Mainstream vouchers will no longer be separate funding. This means HUD can use funding that will be open.
- Each housing authority have different waiting times. Some are 3 months and some Housing Authorities have closed their lists completely. Minot is 18 months long, Grand Forks 8-12 months, Fargo is 3 years, Burleigh County is 2 years, and Morton County is around 12 – 18 months long.

## **Tribal Initiative** -Kayla Trzpuc for Melissa Reardon (NDSU Tribal Liaison)

- Turtle Mountain
  - Hiring for a biller/QSP coordinator
  - Strategic planning and research for the rural transformation grant opportunities
  - Monitoring wastewater and respiratory infections to help protect elders
- Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation
  - Submitted applications for CHRs to be certified CHWs = sustainable reimbursement for services. Now navigating the Medicaid provider enrollment and reimbursement systems.
- Standing Rock
  - May be opportunity to help with service reimbursement opportunities: CHR CHWs, HCBS Care Coordination by CHRs
- MFPTI
  - Building virtual network from attendees at the October MFPTI summit
  - Counterpart in OK stepped down the end of January.
  - MFPTI team presented on a national panel coordinated by Brandeis University and the Justice in Aging Project
- Sandi Erber and Melissa co-presented at the CHR Symposium in early February. Melissa gave a CHR CHW update and Sandi gave an overview of HCBS care coordination services for CHRs.

- Melissa has been asked to serve on the national RCNAD (Resource Center on Native Aging and Disability) board for the MFPTI perspective.

Next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held virtually and in person. In person portion of the meeting will be in Fargo at Job Service located at 1350 32<sup>nd</sup> St. South. Feedback given that a combination of in-person and virtual is preferred. Meeting invites will be sent out.