

MFP External Partner meeting minutes 06/09/2025:

Started 1:08 p.m.

Meeting held in person in Bismarck, Prairie Hills Plaza, Prairie Rose Room 406, and virtually:

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Meeting ID: 218 816 828 404

Passcode: Yo6gh23Q

Agenda

Welcome: MFP Program Administrator Kayla Trzpuc – presented opening poll

•Life Skills and Transition Center Updates

- Given by Keith Vavrovsky. SW from Life Skills Transition center. Report on population. 46 individuals living there 32 adults and 14 youth. 2 discharges and 2 admissions – 1 a youth from Fargo and an adult from Grand Forks. They continue to have movement of about 5-6 people. 4 more will move out this summer.
- Everyone who lives there strives to have an open referral on the DD section system. Close to 90% of their people are on this system to help get them moved.
- They do a regional referral now where individuals can present themselves to private support. They have done this for about 5-6 years. They are trying to move this State-wide.
- There were no questions.

•Developmental Disability Section Updates

- Given by Katie Bentz.
- House Bill 1012 was HHS budget, and they were impacted by this.
- Guardianships were transferred to a separate place.
- Provider inflation of 2%
- Project to convert current ICAP, it is not being updated.
- Autism waiver had age increased to 20 years of age.
- SS income is being disregarded
- HB1109 – changes to terminology. Definitions were changed.
- HB 1485 – relating to person needs allowance, increased by \$15 a month and is to be reviewed annually based on inflation.
- SB 2029 – guardianship bill. Taking over guardianship contracts and all funds by June 30, 2027.

- SB 2029 – state alert system Included a change to silver alert to include DD persons.
- SB 2112 – related to admissions to LSTC of minors. Expires 06/30/2027.
- SB 2291 – related to guardianship for those guardianships which are terminated can be extended. Some definitions were changed. Added some sections.
- SB 2305 – caregiver changes

•Children's Waiver updates

- Updated given by Kat Barchenger waiver administrator.
- Medical Fragile and Autism waivers will be changing ages up to 21st birthdate.
- Tomorrow is the cut off for the cross disabilities waiver advisory council.
- Changes to Level of Care for cross disabilities waiver advisory council.
- Looking for 15 individuals for LOC or cross disabilities waiver advisory council. Go to counsel website and click HHS link to find application.
- A person would serve on the advisory council for two years.
- Hoping to have the waivers out for public comment in June with a November 1 start date for the waiver.

•Medicaid Legislative Updates

- Update given by Brendan Joyce
- Discussed who is covered by North Dakota Medicaid. 50% are children.
- Medicaid Expansion is 25%
- People with disabilities 10%
- 1 in 7 North Dakotan's are on Medicaid. 52.5% of SNF individuals are being paid for by Medicaid. 34% of children in ND are on CHIP (Medicaid)
- Budget was discussed. Majority of dollars, 97% is paid to providers for services. 1% is for administration.
- Enrollment and Expenditures were discussed along with key budgets drivers. (FMAP, Populations, Drugs, Federal Mandates)
- Goals for next biennium: Bend cost curve, deliver whole person care. Promote sustainability and value, improve the member and provider experience.
- Highlighted Governor's budget recommendations listed on PowerPoint, along with legislative actions per budget bills which were also touched on.
- Studies and Reports involving Medicaid were explained.
- Question – What is Value based purchasing? Value based purchasing is where you try to tie what you purchase with outcomes. Examples were given.
- Question – Is there a time frame for studies? Answer: there isn't a time frame yet. Can see the bills here:
<https://ndlegis.gov/sites/default/files/resource/committee-memorandum/27.9003.02000.pdf>

• Adult and Aging Services Updates

- Update given by Nancy Nikolas Maier.
 - Overview of HB 1012 along with other legislation was completed as highlighted by PowerPoint used during meeting. (See PowerPoint)
 - QSP's will get a rate increase on 07/01/2025 along with 07/01/2026 as well. Rate increase is 2%.
 - Guardianship money will be moved out of Adult and Aging budget
 - Discussed by Kayla Trzpuc – MFP Program Administrator, per PowerPoint: ND is working towards being the healthiest state. Discussed delivering best in class customer centered experiences. Discussed guiding principles. Discussed the Statewide data hub.
 - Introductions of MFP and TDP staff were completed.
 - Statistics per the TDP and MFP programs were detailed.
 - MFP Facts were discussed per the PowerPoint used including supplemental services where the federal grant pays for 100% of the expenses.
 - Population group ages were discussed. Elderly (65 years of age), physical disability (18-64), development disabilities (18 and older), and children (under the age of 18).
 - One of our markers are to transition a person within 120 days of signing a consent, if it is safe. Strive is for safety before timeliness.
 - Benchmarks were discussed along with the resources and our sister program the North Dakota Transition and Diversion Program.
 - Work plan and semi-annual report was discussed as highlighted by PowerPoint.
 - Capacity funding projects are being extended in some cases.
 - Meeting dates for 2025 were listed on the PowerPoint.
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- North Dakota Transition and Diversion Program
 - This was discussed during Nancy Nikolas Maier's presentation.
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- Adult Foster Care Workgroup
 - Updates given by Kathryn Good – Nurse Administrator with Adult and Aging.
 - Legislation was discussed as shown on PowerPoint. Bullet points were discussed.
 - Workgroup meeting schedules were highlighted. Looking at other State models to make sure nothing is missed.
 - Next workgroup June 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. – Request meeting invite by e-mailing adultfostercare@nd.gov
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- Housing partner updates
 - Updated given by Cheryl Merck – State housing facilitator with the program since 2011. Staff is throughout the whole State.

- Tuesday training's have been going on since mid-April. Names of trainings were given.
 - They were able to assist 60 individuals from a University Drive Manor shut down. There are a lot of good stories derived from this experience.
 - Referrals keep coming.
 - The housing incentive fund was approved. This was created with a group to get money set aside to build units for low income or disabilities. \$25 million was in the budget for this.
 - HIF fund is contributing with other projects.
 - Burleigh county housing authority is re-building 42 units for families and people with disabilities. One is slated to be done in October. Hoping for more accessible units for people with disabilities.
- Tribal Initiative
 - Updates given by Melissa Reardon, MFP Tribal Initiative program manager.
 - Explained bullet points on the PowerPoint used by Melissa.
 - Melissa has been contacted by other States with MFP programs who want to learn how to do the MFP paperwork with their Tribal Nations.
- MFP Grant Program Reports (Work Plan, Operational Protocol, and Quality Measure Set)
 - Updates given by Kayla Trzpuc per the PowerPoint utilized during the presentation.
- Contact information was listed: Kayla Trzpuc : kbtrzpuc@nd.gov; MFP/TDP team hhsmpreferrals@nd.gov and ADRL intake at Carechoice@nd.gov.
- Open discussion to follow from 3:00pm-4:00pm CST