

Functional Assessment Workgroup – Meeting #1

1:30 – 3:30 PM

July 12, 2023

Meeting Attendance

Organization	Representatives
Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute	Carri McMahon
N/A	Cassandra Sines
University of Kansas	Claudia Dozier
N/A	Connie Zienkewicz
Johnson County Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO)	Jade Graham
InterHab	Matt Fletcher
Sunflower	Nanette Perrin
Heartstrings	Rosanne Thiry
SDSI CDDO	Steve Sandoval
DPOK CDDO	Tara Cunningham
N/A	Teresa Beaudry
Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)	Theresa Singh
Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)	Jason Sheets

Welcome/Introduction

Agreements Suggested:

The group added the following to the suggested meeting agreements:

- Spell out acronyms

Question:

- What is the timeline for implementation?
 - We'll get into the details soon, but we're anticipating the workgroups will finish their work by early September.

Workgroup Background

Theresa & Jason shared information about the workgroup background and formation process.

Questions from the workgroup:

- Will there be review by CMS before implementation?
 - Yes, CMS has to approve everything before it's implemented.

Purpose & Resources

Jason & Theresa shared information about this specific group's purpose and the resources provided and reviewed the regulation language together.

Questions from the workgroup:

- In the previous work group that we were in, MFEI was just supposed to be the holding place, it wasn't supposed to be the name of the assessment. Could we call it something other than the Medicaid functional eligibility instrument?
 - We can look at that, but for now, for simplicity, will use MFEI.
- How were the States chosen for comparison?
- KDADS selected the states, unsure of methodology. Theresa & Jason will follow up.
- Is this taking account into account discussions around a potential new waiver for those not needing extensive supports like residential services?
 - No, since we're only looking at the IDD Waiver and the other waiver is still in development.
- When there's a reference to tier or level of disability. Are we to assume that's done with the same functional assessment tool that they use for eligibility?
 - Believe so, but Jason/Theresa will check
- For the Community Support Waiver do we know if it would have the same functional and eligibility assessment?
 - No, we don't

Discussion

What do you like or dislike about other states' funding structures?

Parents/Family:

- Flat rate didn't make sense, based on varying needs of what people need for day/residential services. Should also consider accounting for extensive personal care needs. Ohio flat rate for individual employment support – vast difference for people who are seeking employment.
- Cost of doing business – how to calculate. Understand cost variance in Johnson County vs. far western Kansas. How does Ohio calculate cost of doing business?
- Several states use tiers or similar.

Advocates:

- Similar discussion to parents
- Beyond flat rate- there are needs beyond medical / behavioral needs that require additional support
- Ohio – cost of doing business; not enough information to know if this is good/bad.
- MFEI – discussion of what it is/what it entails/how to use?
- Would like more detail in the rate and funding report.
- Make sure individuals are held harmless in any transition.

Provider/MCO:

- Same as other groups.
- Like regional differential.
- Ohio system was complicated.
- No state had funding for ADL or behavioral health needs.
- What functional assessment do other states use?

CDDO:

- Intrigued by flat rate, concerned with it being adequate.
- One size doesn't fit all, concerned about regionalization if it would capture true cost.
- Like exception process for higher levels of needs
- Assessment can be subjective – capturing ADLs accurately.

Are any states doing it well?

- No – need more information.
 - What assessment do they use?
 - How do they determine extraordinary funding?
 - Who does the extraordinary funding assessment?
 - Is it a different tool from eligibility?
- Like consideration of cost of doing business. Kansas didn't make changes for a long time and needs a plan for upkeep.

KDADS Note: Kansas is looking to transition away from tier system, but want to grandfather people in, make sure they don't lose eligibility & allow for exceptional funding.

Tier creep is a concern, there should be an even distribution between tiers, currently weighted towards tiers 1-3.

- Is the goal of the flat rate to be able to provide more people with services and spread the services out more evenly?
 - Jason & Theresa will look in to whether this is a reason, a lot of states are moving to flat rate.

Other Thoughts:

- Parent experience: MCO was offering exceptional funding for her child and providers still wouldn't serve them.
- Provider capacity is another issue to consider.
- Recommend reviewing notes from original MFEI workgroup.
- It's important to remember that the MFEI is a functional assessment, it doesn't determine services. MFEI just determines do they need waiver services or not.
- THE MFEI Workgroup met for a significant period of time, is this duplicating that work? Can we have a primer from that group re: what was done?
 - Response: Seth has reached out to Brutus and Carrie Wendell Hummel to get history.
- Did the MFEI group cover rate structure?
 - Response from someone on the group: No, but the history is helpful for context.
- Can we get final report from MFEI group?
 - Nan can ask her for report.
- System in place now is a holding place for MFEI – MCO has to finish assessment.
- Once this is implemented, need strategic meetings with providers, people served, families. Never too early to start the conversation.

Wrap Up

Things to do prior to the next meeting:

- Theresa & Jason will follow up on how states were chosen for review.
- Theresa & Jason will look into the question: When there's a reference to tier or level of disability. Are we to assume that's done with the same functional assessment tool that they use for eligibility?
- Carri will add detail to the rate/funding report around assessments used, who does assessment, extraordinary funding process, how Ohio calculates cost of doing business
- Jason & Theresa will look into the question: Is the goal of the flat rate to be able to provide more people with services and spread the services out more evenly?
- Nan will try to get a copy of the final report from the MFEI Workgroup.

Next meeting:

- Carri will send a Doodle Poll to help find a date for the next meeting.
- Agenda will include responses to questions asked today. State team will work on getting a primer of the MFEI for the group.