

July - MFCMP FAB (Family Advisory Board) Meeting Minutes

07/02/24 5:30 PM – 6:39 PM

In Attendance: Laura Violante, Rebekah Deane, Melissa Brashear, Linda Tabar, Caroline Enos, Christina Garcia, Nichole Rajala, Vail Woodard, Ann Marie Parmenter,

Nichole and Vail welcomed everyone. Feedback on the First Annual Family BBQ at Rangewood Ranch was elicited. Everyone who attended noted they had a wonderful time. Noted it was a lot of fun and it was great to see so many of our population together. A parent shared it was a new feeling to have trouble finding their child in the crowd due to the number of wheelchairs.

Director's Update - Ann Marie shared:

- HSD and DDS have merged as of July 1, 2024 into The Health Care Authority. Noted newer staff serving Medically Fragile Waiver at the State level, many who don't know the history of the Med Frag program. We will continue to invite partners from HCA to our events to support education and advocacy for individuals who are medically fragile and their families.
- Focus of the FAB and UNM Medically Fragile Case Management Program on highlighting the medically fragile population and their needs. Including finding opportunities to show off positive aspects of family engagement, while educating the community, like with the recent picnic at Rangewood Ranch.
- Advisory Council on Quality Supports for people with IDD, which advises the HCA on the waivers, including the Medically Fragile Waiver (MFW). Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every other month. Next meeting is August 8th from 9a-1p on Zoom. Discussed how the FAB can participate in ACQ to provide advisement on the MFW and the MFCMP. Participate in public comment by providing kudos or constructive criticism/feedback, including needing services or what support is needed to help waiver families. Previously the FAB participated in the ACQ meetings as a sub-committee. Ann Marie has requested the FAB be added to the agenda in August as a sub-committee again to start providing updates to ACQ. Discussed doing a presentation to the ACQ during that time on the medically fragile population, sharing pics from the BBQ, and feedback. Noted public comment periods are open as well at the beginning of the meetings and end of them meetings when anyone can share their story or feedback.
- Noted another waiver amendment is being proposed to CMS, regarding rate increases for the waivers, including Medically Fragile Waiver. The official public comment period for the Waiver Amendment is open for written or phone feedback until July 17, 2024 at 5:00pm, with the official public hearing on July 17th @ 9 am. Ann Marie noted recently rates were increased due to a cost of living adjustment (COLA). This rate increase request is related to the rate study the State did in 2023. Nichole noted she will initiate an email thread to the FAB to collect everyone's voice for the public comment period as a possible way to submit comment from the FAB as a whole.
- A recent request by UNM MFCMP to the HCA to increase the total number of MFW allocations UNM MFCMP can access each year. UNM MFCMP came close to reaching current slots in FY24.
- Ongoing request for State guidance around Legally Responsible Individuals being allowed to provide private duty nursing and home health aide services to support the provider capacity. Specific guidance needed around parents/guardians acting as HHAs to be allowed to perform the skilled care they typically provide their children, but would need to provide while on the clock as an HHA. Noted the priority should always remain attempting to find nurses to provide

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the child's skilled care, with LRI exceptions coming into play when that is not possible in total or partial.

- Possible upcoming changes include DDS developing a new ISP document. They have asked for feedback on the ISP. Possibility they are standardizing the ISP across all waivers. Ann Marie has asked if MFCMP could "pilot" the new ISP document first to test it. DDS notes their goal is to roll out the new ISP in September.
- A concern was noted by Caroline that she heard Turquoise Care took over Centennial Care because the State will be cutting costs on services to DD waiver. Ann Marie noted she hasn't heard anything about this.

Review of Family Zoom Connections led by Vail:

- Noted the Transition to Adulthood breakout room was a success. Other groups had 0 in attendance.
- Vail received feedback from other families that they would like us to hold this event again so they can try to make it to the next one.
- Thoughts on changing the flyer for the zoom connections to highlight the small group atmosphere, that they can leave their camera off if wanted, and that it is not formal.
- Idea on making an age group breakout room for families that have children in the program from ages 0-6 and 6 and up. Other suggestions: New Family group, preteen/teen group 11-18 years, sibling group
- Discussed possibly holding family zoom connection meetings every month – 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Upcoming event review by Nichole: NM Special Education Ombud presentation. July 16, 2024 at 6 pm on Zoom.

Meeting wrap up

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 5:30 PM via Zoom.