Personal Care Attendant Quality

Home Care Workforce Council

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# Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Council

Council Meeting

General Session

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|  | June 8, 2021 | 2:00-3:30 p.m. | Zoom Conference Call |

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| coUNCIL  members in attendance | Lauren Peters, Karen Shack, Christopher Hoeh, Kristen McCosh, Ann Ackil, Cindy Purcell, Tim Kunzier |
| Council members not in attendance | Joe Tringali |
| Staff attending | Michelle Byrd |
| chair | Lauren Peters |
| Note taker | Michelle Byrd |
| agenda setting | No issues were added to previously-issued agenda |

Lauren Peters called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. **Council organizational matters**

Review and approval of the minutes from the April 13, 2021 Council meeting

Ann Ackil made a motion to approve the April 13, 2021 minutes. Chris Hoeh seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

Update on Advancing Racial Justice and Equity in the PCA Program

The steering committee met to discuss contracting with a consulting group to support the committee. A draft statement of the initiative’s work will be approved by the group. Lauren will share further details on the statement of work and next steps with Council members.

Post-State of Emergency planning/updates  
With increased vaccine access and other metrics trending positively, the Governor will lift the state of emergency on June 15th.

American Rescue Plan Funding Update

A 10% increase of the federal match on Medicaid services will be in place for one year. The increase may be spent over the next three years until March 2024. Enhanced funding will be focused on access to services, technology, new initiatives, and workforce enhancement. A summary of the plan will be posted on Mass.gov.

The initial spending plan will outline investments in three phases. Round one funding will provide time limited funding to stabilize the workforce. MassHealth is awaiting further guidance from CMS to guide investments for Rounds 2 and 3.. Becca Gutman stated that 1199SEIU advocates using some funding from round one to support PCA workers providing services during the pandemic.

Labor Management

There is no final agreement yet on EVV bargaining. Updates include an exemption from EVV for live-in caregivers, PCAs without access to a smart device will be provided with an alternative access method, the functionality of the system will be easy to use for both workers and consumers. Paul Spooner asked how the exemption for live-in caregivers will impact CMS expectations. Jarred stated that CMS recognizes live-in as exempt and will not impact compliance data to be provided to CMS.

There will be an enhanced PCA pilot program. Additional information will be provided at next LMC meeting and shared with the Council at the August meeting.

Budget Report

Report was provided to Council members.

1. **PCA Program Update**
2. Recruitment and Retention Update

Lisa Marschke updates on current Recruitment and Retention efforts.

* The consumer video project is focused on developing a video featuring consumer-employers providing details on their PCA hiring, training and management efforts.
* PCA Directory
  + Consumers continue to provide feedback on testing of Directory enhancements.
  + Mass. PCA Directory Marketing Campaign includes PCA recruitment resources along with a map of available PCAs sorted by county
  + The new Mass. PCA Directory logo along with draftsof the new Directory landing page and PCA worker flyer was shared with Council members. Lisa asked Council members to contact her with any questions or comments.
* PCA outreach efforts continue to The MA Office of Immigrants and Refugees, the MA Department of Education and the Workforce Investment Boards continue to support on PCA outreach efforts.

1. MassHealth Report

Jarred Damico announced that Tempus Unlimited has been selected as the MassHealth Fiscal Intermediary.

With no other agenda items for discussion, Lauren thanked participants and adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Byrd