

Final Rule Stakeholder Call

Topic:

12/ 20/ 2017

Progress Report: Path to Initial Approval of the Statewide Transition Plan 2018

NOON CALL (# PARTICIPANTS ON THE LINE, 23)

1. When you're talking about the setting assessment tool, you said that there are other states tools endorsed as best practice by CMS. What are those other states?
 - a. WSU: I will have to look, I was not a part of that specific research. I know we've got it. The tool we are looking at using is from Montana. It's a short and simple yes/no survey that ideally would only take providers a couple of minutes. If you took the original attestation that we had, it was long. It had some confusing questions and domains that they were asking for. The specific attestation tool that we are looking at is the one that Montana used. If you want the other states that we looked at, it will take a couple of minutes to get that information.
 - b. Just knowing the states, the Montana form is what I need.
2. With that new assessment from Montana, is there going to be a new work group to look at it, or are we just adapting it for use in Kansas and sending it out as final? How is that going to work?
 - a. KDADS: At that point we are still doing internal consensus building, one of the tools we are looking at is this Montana tool. WSU has been looking at modifying it to have it conform to what we need for Kansas. From there it is yet to be determined. I don't see why we wouldn't get some level of stakeholder feedback. Again we're still at the beginning of the process. I don't imagine that we would want to proceed without getting some level stakeholder input before we implement it.
 - b. WSU: Because the tool has been approved by CMS as a best practice, we are not planning to make a ton of changes, or have a formal work group. However that's not to say that we wouldn't take stakeholder feedback if there are things that will not work for Kansas and the systems that we have. We are planning to use something that closely reflects the Montana tool. If there are questions or concerns, or you see something that you don't think will work in Kansas, you can send that feedback to the email address to be sure that we are considering it.
 - c. KDADS: If there are other tools or other states that you are familiar with, or any assessment tools that come to mind alert us to that, because we are still in the process of trying to get a tool finalized. We can modify it to meet Kansas' needs. Using the Montana tool does not bar us from using what worked well from other states to get to a tool that makes sense for Kansas.

Adjourn

EVENING CALL (# PARTICIPANTS ON THE LINE, 5)

1. I want to clarify what you said that every setting will have to have verification. Doesn't that mean that there will have to be an onsite visit to every group home, every day center, and every therapy place that provides HCBS services?
 - a. KDADS: After the noon call today I received a follow up call from a representative at CMS asking to speak with me to clarify the setting assessment and what would be required. I did not get to speak with her. I'm hoping that I will get a chance to speak with her tomorrow. If we have to go to every center, every group home, that will require some resources. As a state we will need clarification in terms of if that is the expectation. We are considering all the options right now, if that is indeed the expectation.
 - b. That seems overwhelming. I see that additional resources are going to be needed in order to do anything like that. Once these have been approved, what is the feedback or interaction from the people severed, or their families about person centered plans, and how it may be influenced by what is available after this is over?
 - c. KDADS: That is a good question. I wish this was a black and white process, it is new for all of us in every state. It's a new process we are committed to get through the settings assessment, getting our state into KanCare 2.0 and working with the new MCOs within the context of the final rule to get a person centered planning process. As often as we heard the KanCare motto, "The right care, the right place, at the right time", that will continue to be the commitment. My hope is that we can get through this process, and have our existing providers able to participate in the HCBS program moving forward. Even having the opportunity to expand our capacity and give people more choices. That may sound optimistic, I think we don't want to create a situation where providers are eroding away because of final rule implementation that has an adverse effect on families and consumers. This is a process that we will have to work through deliberately, intentionally and in good faith but keeping the interests of those we serve in mind.
 - d. I think my concern is the process is happening at a theoretical level, families live at a practical level. The input you get from families, and consumers, about the way the system works, their needs, wants, and what is possible, could influence the way it is being handled. Most of what happens at stakeholder meeting is presentations to the people who are there, and not as much feedback, especially from families. I see a lot of providers at those not so many consumers or families that are directly impacted. Also thinking of more and different ways to engage the consumer.
 - e. KDADS: Carri do you want to talk about the validation process in terms of how we will be involving families and consumers from your point of view?
 - f. WSU: That's not something we have talked about recently. The state is required to do some form of validation. What we've talked about up to this point was doing a desk review. The providers would take the online attestation about their setting type. That doesn't mean every single setting that they have has to be assessed but every type of setting. They would have to respond for example, about their group homes and provide information about them. To validate what they have said, there would be documentation they would upload and provide, then the state could do a desk review. Beyond that it's not decided at this point.
 - g. KDADS: I think the validation process will include a consumer survey component. We did some consumer surveys early on, they were not structured to validate what the consumer

would say about their provider. There will have to be some component where we are getting feedback from the consumers and or their families and tie it back to what the provider attests too.

- h.** KDADS: If you could share throughout the network or friends that we have these calls and we have the website, and we have the ability for people to email their comments. I also want to be mindful of the fact that not everybody has access to a computer, or the means to send an email or check a website. You have the option to mail comments in or submit questions.
- i.** I'm the executive director for Families Together. We are willing to be partners with KDADS in getting information to families that we have contact with. We will continue to tell families about these calls and other ways to give input to the system.
- j.** KDADS: That's another piece of technical assistance we've received recently. It was to make sure non electronic means of communicating are made available and utilized.

Adjourn