

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee

Meeting 1 | March 3, 2022

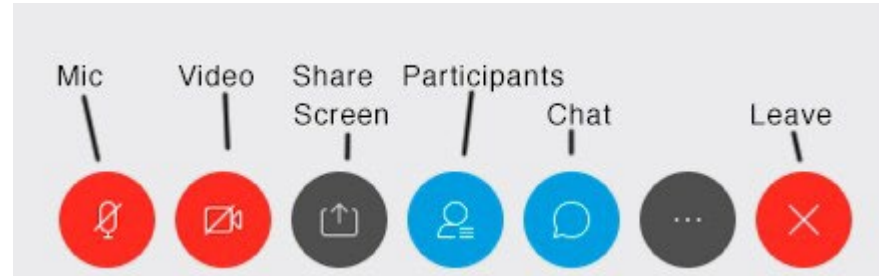
Welcome!

Lea Bittner-Eddy | Facilitator

Agenda

Time	Topic
10:00-10:15	Welcome, Orientation to WebEx and Meeting Practices
10:15-10:45	Introductions
10:45-10:50	Vision and Goals for Waiver Reimagine
10:50-11:10	Charter and Values Confirmation
11:10-11:45	Waiver Reimagine Overview and Status
11:45-11:55	Committee Members' Hopes and Concerns
11:55-12:00	Confirm Meeting Schedule, Next Steps Review, Adjourn

Meetings Via WebEx - Tips



If you have a question or comment during a meeting, breakout session, event, or webinar, and don't want to interrupt, raise your hand. Raising your hand alerts the host and a raised hand icon appears in your video. A raised hand icon also appears in the Participants panel.

If you don't see the option to raise your hand, the host or cohost [may not allow participants to raise their hands](#).



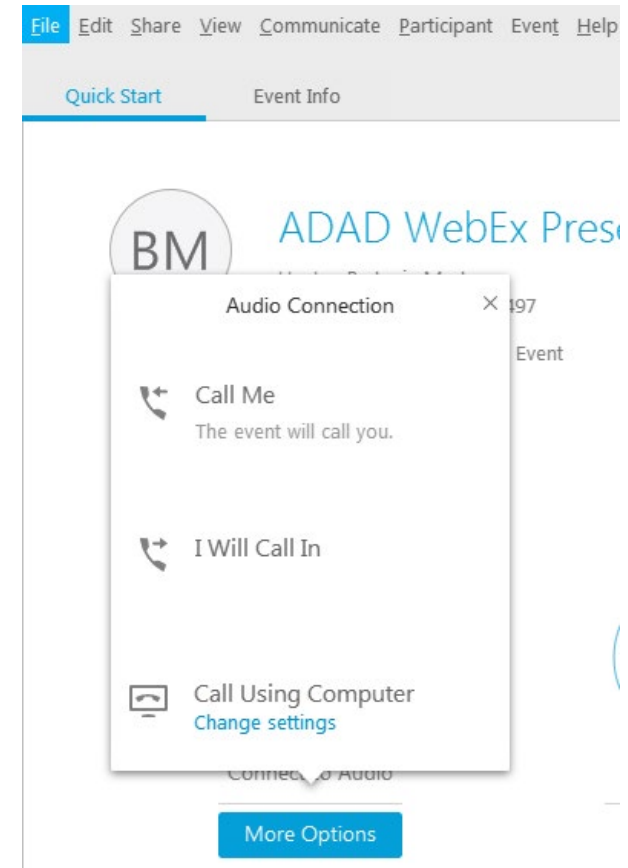
Welcome Everyone

Presenter audio is muted until the presentation begins.

If you are using your computer speakers and have trouble hearing the volume during the presentation, we recommend participating with a telephone line.

Members of the public are in listen-only mode.

Teleconference call information is available in the Event Info section



Ground Rules to Support Meeting Success

- Introduce yourself and who you represent. If you'd like, you can share your preferred pronouns
- Stay present giving your full attention to this discussion; let us know via chat if you need to leave the discussion and when you are back
- Please stay focused on the agenda item being discussed (Jot out note for reference later)
- Share your main thoughts/key points early when speaking
- All members have the right to share their ideas and all ideas are valuable
- Be respectful of the process and other participants - including privacy (avoid names)
- Focus on the issue, not the people
- Advocate for all, not individual situations - stories are shared to inform the policy
- Summarize what you heard to ensure understanding before reacting to another's comment

Advisory Committee Members (1 of 4)

1. Preferred name 2. organization/perspective 3. project hopes

Name	Representing
Don Barnes	Waiver Service Provider
Val Barnes	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Kathryn Barton	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Annie Braun	County, Waiver Alliance, or Tribal Nation Representative
Tricia Brisbine	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Cathy Chavers	Minnesota Tribal Representative
Jennifer Drganc	Waiver Service Provider
Rosalie Eisenreich	Disability and Behavioral Health Advocate

Advisory Committee Members (2 of 4)

1. Preferred name 2. organization/perspective 3. project hopes

Name	Representing
Lisa Evert	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Mary Fenske	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Kelly Friesen	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Abigail Gertken	Waiver Service Provider
Zahnia Harut	Waiver Service Provider
Lisa Harvey	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Arbdella Hudson	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Katrina Jirik	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Ali Kofiro	Disability and Behavioral Health Advocate

Advisory Committee Members (3 of 4)

1. Preferred name 2. organization/perspective 3. project hopes

Name	Representing
Susan Mackert	Waiver Service Provider
Meredith McKinnon	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Julie Morrison	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Polly Owens	Disability and Behavioral Health Advocate
Rijuta Pathre	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Sherri Pickthorn	County, Waiver Alliance, or Tribal Nation Representative
Phyllis Reller	County, Waiver Alliance, or Tribal Nation Representative
Kathy Rogers	County, Waiver Alliance, or Tribal Nation Representative
Bud Rosenfield	Disability and Behavioral Health Advocate

Advisory Committee Members (4 of 4)

1. Preferred name 2. organization/perspective 3. project hopes

Name	Representing
Saudade Sammuelson	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Elizabeth Scheel-Keita	Family Member of People who use Waiver Services
Lauren Thompson	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Chad Wilson	Disability and Behavioral Health Advocate
Pat Wright	People with Disabilities who use Waiver Services
Wa Xiong	County, Waiver Alliance, or Tribal Nation Representative

Members of the Public

- Listen and observe
- Submit questions and input for WRAC consideration to:
Waiver.reimagine@state.mn.us

Department of Human Services Participants

Name	Responsibility
Emmanuel Nwala	Disability Services Division Manager
Curtis Buhman	Disability Services Division Manager
Matt Knutson	Waiver Policy and Compliance Supervisor
Colin Stemper	Fiscal Policy Supervisor
Meghan Lindblom	Fiscal Policy Lead
Leah Zoladkiewicz	Waiver Policy Consultant
Hannah Lamb	Fiscal Policy Analyst

Department of Human Services Participants

Name	Responsibility
Stephen Horn	Waiver Policy Consultant
Maria Trueblood	Waiver Policy Lead
Elliott Rankin	Waiver Policy Lead
Sarah Sinderbrand	Fiscal Policy Analyst

Waiver Reimagine Foundations

Becky Melang | Deputy Director, Disability Services Division, DHS

Evolution of MN's Waiver Programs

The current service system developed one piece and one program at a time over the course of many years. As a result, it is complex and can be difficult to navigate.

- Developed around diagnoses and criteria for institutional care
- Inequitable access to services because of variations in the waivers
- As waivers were added and evolved, they became increasingly complex

Waiver Reimagine - Transition Plan

Waiver Reimagine will improve the overall disability home and community-based waiver system so that it's more **person-centered, easier to understand, and simpler to navigate.**

Common
service menu
across all waivers



Two waiver
system based on
where a person
lives and not on
their diagnosis

A known and
transparent
budget based on a
person's needs

Increase flexibility
to self-direct

The Values of Waiver Reimagine

- ***Equity and Transparency:*** Budgets and access are determined through a consistent approach for all people and information on how they are determined is available publicly.
- ***Person-centered decision making:*** People will have access to their personal information, including budget and services used to make informed decisions about their life, services, and supports.
- ***Flexibility and Self Direction:*** People can choose the services and supports they need and want to purchase within their budget range. People will be able to choose to self-direct none, some, or all of most services.

Project Timeline

2017-18:

- We conducted extensive research and stakeholder engagement that informed Waiver Reimagine recommendations.

2019:

- Simplifying the service menu changes were passed into law.

2020:

- Conducted research on reshaping the waivers, support ranges (individual budgets) and self-direction. We conducted more stakeholder engagement events to inform policy and a second legislative report.

2021:

- Simplifying the service menu changes took effect Jan. 2021.
- Waiver reimagine Phase 2 passed into law which includes transition to individual budgets and a 2-waiver system.

2022 and beyond:

- (2022) Develop waiver amendment language and receive feedback from interested parties.
- (2023) Submit waiver amendments to the federal government, develop policies and procedural guidance.
- (2024 and later) Begin rolling implementation of individual budgets and 2-waiver system.

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Responsibilities

- Inform and support Waiver Reimagine policy work - reshaping waivers, moving to individualized budgets
 - Review policy and operational development work in progress
 - Give feedback and input to design and decisions
- Consult with DHS on plans for Waiver Reimagine Phase 2
 - Report to Legislature prior to seeking approval from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (target December 2023)

Charter Review

Lea Bittner-Eddy | Facilitator

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Charter Draft – Confirm Guiding principles

- Respond to challenges that people have told us about.
 - Waiver programs are too complex and difficult to understand.
 - People feel like there is a lack of information.
 - There is limited flexibility, control and choice over services.
- Waiver system should support people to lead a meaningful life based on their goals and what is important to them.
 - Make the waiver system easier for all to understand and use.
 - Empower people with more control over their services.
 - Provide equity across waiver programs and people.

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Charter Draft – Confirm Guiding principles- continued

For people who receive services and their families

- Make it easier to describe the services they want.
- Provide information about services and budgets to give people more choice and control over planning services and supports.
- Provide equitable access to services and funding regardless of disability and in which county or tribal nation a person lives.
- Increase options to self-directed services, use technology and remote supports as alternative support options.

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Charter Draft Review – Review Scope

Related Topics that are not in scope for this committee

The following topics are ongoing, critical issues for the disability community and Minnesota. However, Waiver Reimagine may not directly address or solve these emerging policies, new projects, or real issues.

- Workforce shortage
- COVID-19 ongoing effect on services
- New MnCHOICES assessment launch and content
- Current payment rates for services; Waivers and State Plan
- Program eligibility
- Provider licensure and compliance
- CFSS launch and implementation timelines

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Charter Draft Review – Questions

- Decision-making process: How will the group come to a consensus or make official recommendations?
 - Goal will be consensus using values as our guide
 - If cannot reach consensus, alternative positions will be included
- Chat during the meetings: How will DHS share and answer the questions and comments received in chat and emails?
 - Recap comments, questions and response at beginning of each meeting
- Homework and surveys outside of meetings: How much time will be needed outside of each meeting?
 - Mainly reading proposed policy and providing feedback

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Charter Draft Review – Comments







Topics for inclusion in future meetings:

- Self-direction
- Flexibility
- Transitions between living settings and as a person ages
- Related projects and services and how they work with Waiver Reimagine

Waiver Reimagine Overview

Leah Zoladkiewicz, Hannah Lamb | Department of Human Services

Waiver Reimagine Phase 1: Simplifying the Service Menu

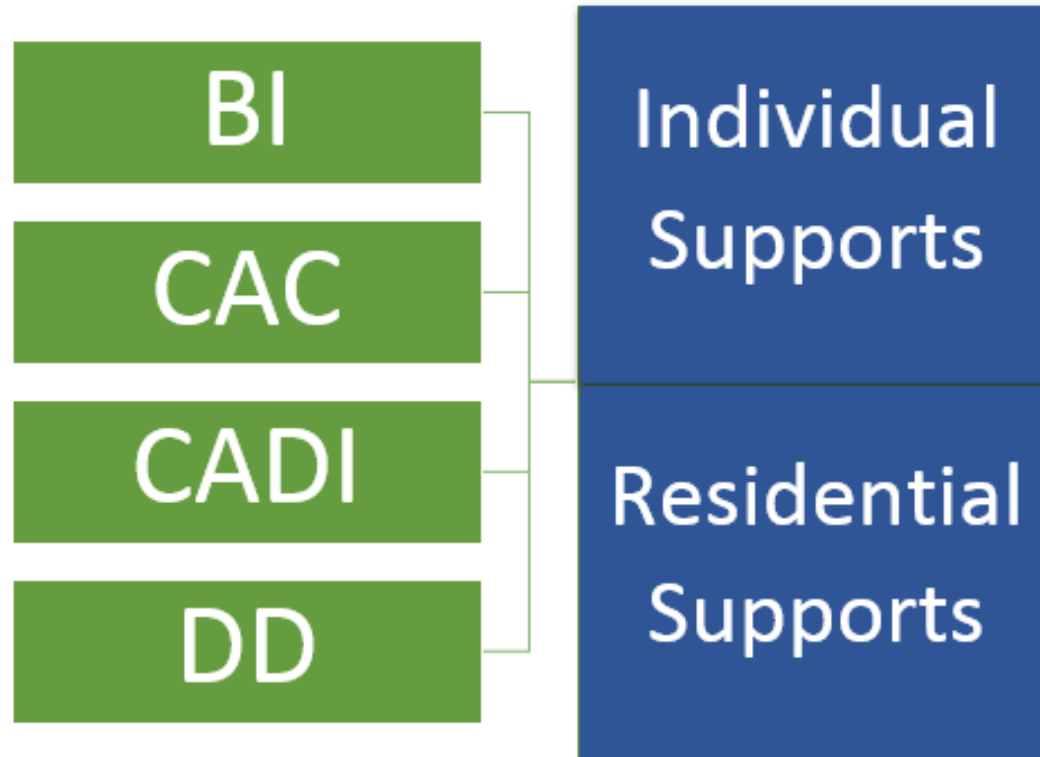
Corporate foster care Supported living service (SLS) corporate		Community residential services
Family foster care SLS family		Family residential services
Personal support Adult companion		Individualized home supports (without training)
Independent living skills, training Individualized home supports Supported living services (15 min unit)		Individualized home supports (with training)
In-home family supports		Individualized home supports (with family training)
Day training & habilitation Structured day program		Day support services

Waiver Reimagine Phase 2



- Implement an individual budget methodology based on a person's unique needs
- Reshape the waivers from four waivers based on a person's diagnosis to two waivers based on where a person lives

Reshaping the waivers



Residential Waiver and Individual Waiver

Residential Support Waiver

Community Residential

Family Residential

Integrated Community Supports

Customized Living

Individual Support Waiver

Living with family

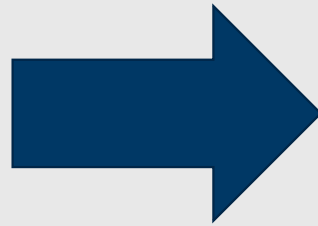
Living Independently

Family supports

Phase 2: Current & individual budgeting methodology

Current budget methodology

- **There is not one specific way** to determine how much a person can spend on traditional waiver services.
- Instead, **each lead agency** balances people's waiver spending together within a single budget.



Individual budget methodology

- Each person is assigned to a **support range** based on their individual needs.
- The person **chooses** which services and supports to access within their budget.

Support range criteria (Adults)

1	Low general support need with typical health and behavioral support needs
2	Moderate general support need with typical health and behavioral support needs
3	High general support need with typical health and behavioral support needs
4	Extensive general support need with typical health and behavioral support needs
L	Low to moderate general support need with high health and/or high behavioral support needs
H	High to extensive general support need with high health and/or high behavioral support needs
E	Any general support need with extraordinary health and/or behavioral support needs

Clarifying Questions?

Council Members' Hopes and Concerns

Lea Bittner-Eddy | Facilitator

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Hopes and Concerns for this Work (via chat)

Hopes (during introductions)

Concerns

Reminders and Next meeting

Homework:

- Oath of Office
- Reimbursement Form
- Charter for review
- Read legislative report if desired (see website)

Next meeting:

- Meeting Roadmap
- More detail about Waiver Consolidation

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Thursday, March 3, 2022
- **Thursday, April 28, 2022**
- Thursday, June 30, 2022
- Thursday, August 25, 2022
- Thursday, October 27, 2022
- Thursday, December 15, 2022

Thank You!

Waiver.reimagine@state.mn.us