

June 30 meeting WebEx CHAT

DHS – DSD/Kelly Melcher to everyone: CART Link: <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=WRAC>

Polly Owens to everyone: Please be sure that the public knows that the meetings are being shown on YouTube rather than the previous way they accessed the meetings. I am aware that some people did not realize the place to view them had been changed.. Thanks.

Val Barnes to everyone: yes, tks for that. I did not know that. Do you know how long they will be on YouTube?

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone:

Thank you, Polly! It is on the public website and we can work on advertising.

Jen Drganc to everyone: Polly, here is the link for the live stream on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCxO0f4LFGA>

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Hi Val (This is Hannah) we are live on YouTube and they aren't recorded at this time.

Val Barnes to everyone: oh, ok

Polly Owens to everyone: Thanks Jen.

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Also if anyone in the public needs the captions, here is the link <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=WRAC>

Val Barnes to everyone: Has the State legislature said it will reduce funding to dhs for waiver services?

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone: same as for the WebEx

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Hi Val (this is Hannah) - the legislature has not stated they will reduce funding to DHS for waiver services.

Val Barnes to everyone: ok,

Phyllis Reller to everyone: first question:

Val Barnes to everyone: why do you all say limited funds?

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Hi Val - all funds are limited - they give a set amount. Limited means set here, not decrease or increase.

Val Barnes to everyone: some groups in the state budget get too much funding? in my opinion.

Val Barnes to everyone: and no one talks about them getting less money, they keep getting more money, that's not fair.

Val Barnes to everyone: great point Lauren

Phyllis Reller to everyone: well thought out Lauren

Val Barnes to everyone: Case managers and case management companies should have caps, just like support planners have caps.

Val Barnes to everyone: and clients have caps too, so why not case management companies and their staff?

Phyllis Reller to everyone: great point - one thing to remember in rural counties often the supervisors have never worked in the field and supervise multiple programs

Abby Gertken to everyone: Thank you Phyllis, for pointing that out! much appreciated

Val Barnes to everyone: they charge for services and who understand what's what they are billing. When I asked a case manager once why you sent so many bills to the state and I never hear from you, he said well we do things even when I don't talk or see you. Oh, really, convenient for them. I'd like some of that convenience.

Polly Owens to everyone: 100% agree on the discrepancy between provider controlled living situation and individual living situation.

Val Barnes to everyone: the state know how much time some clients need and how much time other clients needs depending on personal, social, medical, and more.

Val Barnes to everyone: it doesn't have to be written in stone there could be some flexible but now they are always charging the state for things they don't even do.

Val Barnes to everyone: I hate year to year. how can you move forward, they just said waiver imagine will take several years, they can say that because they have the flexibility and respect to plan and see things for the future.

Val Barnes to everyone: where is the power and respect for our goals and future planning. its a joke reviewing and changing our budgets annually. its really saying "don't get comfortable"

Bud Rosenfield he/him to everyone: Sorry, I don't think I said who I am and represent Bud Rosenfield, Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Our website: <https://mn.gov/omhdd/>

Val Barnes to everyone: congregate care is so expensive

Val Barnes to everyone: yep

Val Barnes to everyone: you have to wonder what are their real values are

Jen Drganc to everyone: Great idea about the budget exceptions and a 3% trigger to reassess rates.

Val Barnes to everyone: we have to move from congregate care for everyone because there's no staffing and where will the gov't continue to get money to pay 30, 40 plus thousand a month per person for congregate care?

Polly Owens to everyone: Love the pizza analogy Dr. Kate!

Val Barnes to everyone: I think we need more community choices for care, that's all forms of community housing, with community people not businesses.

Val Barnes to everyone: it's going to be all about community anyways because the gov't won't continue to pay out all the money to businesses anyways.

Val Barnes to everyone: certainly not pay money to businesses to pay for poor people's care. they're not going to do that.

Rosalie Eisenreich, SEMCIL to everyone: Dr. Jirik - your point on order another pizza or reduce the flow of funds to congregate care is spot on. We are not scarce on funds, we're scarce on giving the power to people to live in their own home.

Kelly Friesen to everyone: All excellent points!!

Val Barnes to everyone: right, the people are not evening getting the services for all the money the state is paying.

Kayte Barton to everyone: Or case managers don't understand what is available

Val Barnes to everyone: But change will come when us and the public speak up. right now, I think politicians think they can do this because the public is not educated about what's going.

Val Barnes to everyone: more grants and pilot projects for community living

from Zahnia Harut to everyone: Can you repost the streaming link

Bud Rosenfield he/him to everyone: A couple more points/issues: (1) We need to discuss how budgets will work with and support self-direction (both fully self-directed plans and people using "a la carte" self-direction) ; (2) interplay between support ranges/budgets and DWRS (service rates) rate exceptions.

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb to everyone: The public may view the event on the Minnesota DHS YouTube page

Val Barnes to everyone: Results, yeah, exactly.

Tory to everyone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCxOOf4LFGA>

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Thanks, Tory!

Val Barnes to everyone: results exactly, where is the money going and where is it most effective

Polly Owens to everyone: I totally agree Bud. I have some thoughts what happens after the budget amount is allocated and will share if I have time.

Val Barnes to everyone: and how does the state know if they aren't connecting with communities and encourage different living care services

Val Barnes to everyone: encourage with grants and pilot projects. they should be money set aside for people to explore all the different living options.

Val Barnes to everyone: All the money that we don't spend in our budgets that goes back to the state for politicians and others to use for their pet projects can be used to fund grants and pilot projects to explore many different living options in community.

Val Barnes to everyone: efficiency and transparency go together

Tricia Brisbine to everyone: Great point!

Phyllis Reller to everyone: EXACTLY!!!!

Val Barnes to everyone: where's the transparency?

Val Barnes to everyone: since all of the business of the state information now a days is being done on computers, why can't we view all the money that goes

Val Barnes to everyone: to waiver services

Val Barnes to everyone: well proposed budgets and proposed plans and goals are not real.

Val Barnes to everyone: There is little to no self-direction, it's more like controlled direction

Val Barnes to everyone: yep

Val Barnes to everyone: lots of money

Phyllis Reller to everyone: or are told to say no - hard to say

from Val Barnes to everyone: they give us the budgets but restrict our spending through case managers. it's that way because the state like using case managers and gatekeepers.

Val Barnes to everyone: and that's why case managers (many of them) are so nasty. they are now the state wants them to exercise control over how we want to use our budgets

Val Barnes to everyone: It comes down to respect and trust

Val Barnes to everyone: when you see people, really see people and respect them, because you acknowledge their existence you can have trust in people decisions, they want to make for themselves.

Kelly Friesen to everyone: I understand it.

Phyllis Reller to everyone: contracted case management has resulted in so much more turnover in cm's - so sorry

Wa Xiong to everyone: I'll be unavailable for the next 15 mins but want to be part of this discussion. My name is Wa and I represent case manager and social worker. An ideal budget system is taking what you only need.

We need to understand the MnCHOICES assessment, level of care, the assessed needs and services to meet those needs. Also looking at change of needs over time and what that support looks like. I also want to stress building consistent relationship with case manager and social worker. I 2nd the Choice of Case Management.

Kayte Barton to everyone: The contracted case managers also don't really know all the services available!

Val Barnes to everyone: Turnover and waste. The waste of time in contesting our wishes for things we believe we need.

Kayte Barton to everyone: They didn't even record all of my points!

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Hi Kayte - the main ideas are captured on the screen but we also have someone taking a full transcript with each word that we will share.

Phyllis Reller to everyone: maybe tell them how to mute again

Val Barnes to everyone: The state exercise far more control over us clients than they do case management companies.

Julie Morrison to everyone: Yes! Owners -- not clients....

Val Barnes to everyone: Do we really need case management companies, there has to be alternatives., where are the alternative

Val Barnes to everyone: yep, the politicians are not hearing from us when it comes to people unspent budgets and what happens to that money.

Val Barnes to everyone: we need to make politicians account for that and we need have a say i n how and where that money goes.

Val Barnes to everyone: its secret money, what are they doing with it, money in our name and they are using it for whatever

Val Barnes to everyone: No not really

Val Barnes to everyone: the language say self-direction doesn't mean it truly is self-direction.

Val Barnes to everyone: of course

Val Barnes to everyone: they look at those with money differently than people without money.

Val Barnes to everyone: we all do

Val Barnes to everyone: and of course, it's going to affect who gets what

Val Barnes to everyone: because of class status

Val Barnes to everyone: we value people who have more and of course they are going to get more almost always

Val Barnes to everyone: because we think they are worth it

Val Barnes to everyone: it's unfair but it happens everywhere including in state services

Val Barnes to everyone: the buck should stop with dhs but actually dhs have its favorite and the clients are not at the top of the list.

Polly Owens to everyone: Once someone has their individual budget allocation they will need to plan for services within that budget. It will be important that there is a consistent format used throughout the state for them to write their plan (services purchased/cost.frequency of service/total). Something similar to the CDCS Plan/budget format. There should be someone to assist the person in developing their plan/budget who is not the assessor, case manager or a provider of services. People need to know their budget amount before their budget planning meeting. People need to have the authority to decide how to spend their budget.

Val Barnes to everyone: back to community

Polly Owens to everyone: There needs to be a process to address how individual budgets work in licensed congregate settings. Licensed providers often charge the same rate for all people in their congregate setting. How will we assure each person's individual budget allocation is respected?

Kelly Friesen to everyone: Great points.

Polly Owens to everyone: Perhaps we should use the term 'shared living' rather than 'residential'.

Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: great points

Val Barnes to everyone: yeap, I think maybe community does not know they can and should have access to that money and community needs to be a full partner in helping community members who need help. right now, the state has partnerships with businesses and not communities and leave community out of discussions. So, community members, groups, individuals don't even know they can play a bigger role when it comes to supports for vulnerable people.

from Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: MnCHOICES does not address mental health concerns. It does somewhat address behaviors which are not the same as mental health concerns

Val Barnes to everyone: Take the money out of the hands of businesses who cannot and have not provide caring services for vulnerable and place those dollars in community.

Val Barnes to everyone: try to be fair

Val Barnes to everyone: not over authorizing

Val Barnes to everyone: wow, what's that?

Val Barnes to everyone: great point

Val Barnes to everyone: pass val

Val Barnes to everyone: yep

Polly Owens to everyone: Here is some information on individual budgets that is a good summary of assessment informed budgets and a level-based approach similar to what DHS has proposed.

https://www.hsri.org/files/uploads/publications/HSRI_White_Paper_Individualized_Services_FINAL.pdf

Val Barnes to everyone: have unspent funds follow the individuals, great idea

Val Barnes to everyone: yep

DSD Fiscal Policy/Hannah Lamb to everyone: Hi - if you want to read more about work so far - here are the all the reports about our research so far. (This is Hannah). <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/long-term-services-and-supports/waiver-reimagine/>

Val Barnes to everyone: thanks for this opportunity to hear from others.

Julie Morrison to everyone: Yes -- our case manager does not know and does not know how to get the answers to what is available.

Val Barnes to everyone: I have to leave soon

Val Barnes to everyone: where are the evaluations for case management

Val Barnes to everyone: from the state to clients

Wa Xiong to everyone: thank you Lea

Phyllis Reller to everyone: EXCELLENT POINTS

Val Barnes to everyone: thank you

Phyllis Reller to everyone: EXCELLENT POINTS

Val Barnes to everyone: thank you

Emmanuel N to everyone: this was very productive meeting and a lot of very important feedback. Thank you all so very much

Phyllis Reller to everyone: additional points:

Julie Morrison to everyone: Is the surplus considered working within the pizza?

Phyllis Reller to everyone: remember - if you want consistency by LA's and CM's you need to consider caseload sizes - they should be set - we have been asking this for a long time. the work expectations for cm's have really increased over the past 10 years - need recommended caseload size of 30-35 - need solid training and expectations. LAs doing this on their own is unlikely unless this comes out - remember in rural MN many supervisors have never worked in the field and have no idea about the workload - they also have multiple programs - need SOLID TRAINING & CL SIZES

Polly Owens to everyone: You can get all the supports you truly need

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: That would be extremely individualized (which is a strength) but also time consuming administratively

Phyllis Reller to everyone: sorry, this is not it.

Polly Owens to everyone: Challenge - How would you monitor funding

Susan Mackert to everyone: Challenges: those who ask first, deplete the 'limited' funds

Julie Morrison to everyone: Challenge --doesn't address efficiency/effectiveness issue

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: Challenge - those who don't articulate their needs as well might not be as successful in getting the support they need

Elizabeth Scheel-Keita to everyone: will increase gatekeeping

Val Barnes to everyone: you can be creative when you don't have a set budget and you can make room for others when budget is not set.

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: Note: This perspective is quite polarized - either set or not set. It might be more helpful to look at it somewhere in the middle

Val Barnes to everyone: maybe people would explore more if they though budget was not set. maybe a budget that's not set gives you a sense of freedom to spend on things you would not normally consider.

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: :)

Susan Mackert to everyone: I want avocado on my pizza

Val Barnes to everyone: lol

Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: It seems there is a problem with the algorithm of one answer changes the algorithm

Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: if not of

Val Barnes to everyone: got to go, tks, Val

Saudade Sammuels she/her they/them to everyone: my needs had ACTUALLY gone UP - according to me and my 5 providers who provided letters.

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: I am not certain everyone would agree that this budget is easier to understand.

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: For example, it is sometimes easier to understand when things actually pertain to your individual situation AND help improve that situation.

Pat Wright to everyone: So, this budget methodology is used for everyone including cdcs?

Tricia Brisbane to everyone: Good question, Pat.

Julie Morrison to everyone: Do we have control over retaining any "surplus

Lisa Evert to everyone: Regarding the LEVEL BUDGET option. You say it can be updated without affecting the entire system. SO...if we know the proposed budget ranges are inadequate, specifically speaking for the 11% who are significantly and negatively impacted, then we can more easily change it? right? Why move ahead with the current proposal when we know it will be inadequate/failure on day one?

Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: This analogy is flawed in that it about individuals and neglecting corporate gluttony.

Julie Morrison to everyone: Does retaining the surplus require going to the legislature?

Kelly Friesen to everyone: So CDCS is going away? Did I misunderstand that statement?

Tricia Brisbine to everyone: Just a reflection here...DHS is using a lot of "we chose" and "we can"....I think many individuals on the advisory committee would like to think that advisory members and consumers weren't

Tricia Brisbine to everyone: ...weren't merely considered, but rather partnered with in making decisions.

Polly Owens to everyone: It's interesting how money is currently allocated results in individuals having nothing if they exit 'the system' while licensed providers typically have property to sell and keep the profits if they exit 'the system'. People have been expressing concerns about incentivizing licensed shared living settings.

Julie Morrison to everyone: What about training for clients and their advocates ...

Phyllis Reller to everyone: This will allow those who could not get on CDCS in the past to self-direct and still get those more expensive services.

Kelly Friesen to everyone: Consumer Directed Consumer Supports are critical for person centered care & self-advocacy!

Phyllis Reller to everyone: sounds good - this was a good meeting

Tricia Brisbine to everyone: Thank you everyone!

Lisa Evert to everyone: Ask for more funding! We know the current plan will fail our most vulnerable if implemented as approved by the legislature. Again, for those who have a proven, approved history of using budgets for determined needs, then we should acknowledge those utilized levels and align future ranges accordingly. AND REMEMBER TO ALLOW SELF DIRECTION WHICH MEANS MOVING AWAY FROM BEING FORCED TO USE PROVIDERS/AGENCIES AND ALLOW TRUE FLEXIBLE SELF DIRECTION. Waiver Reimagine was not set out to be a budget cutting tool.

Phyllis Reller to everyone: great meeting

Dr. Kate Jirik to everyone: Thanks Lisa

Julie Morrison to everyone: I would like to see a guide workbook for clients/advocates to track their assessments/budgets/services so everyone at least as a base of what info they should be tracking

Lisa Evert to everyone: Thank you. Great meeting.

Pat Wright to everyone: Thx