



Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee

Meeting 3 | June 30, 2022

Welcome!

Facilitator Lea

Meeting practices

- When speaking, re-introduce yourself (and who you represent)
- Speak slowly so the captioner can accurately capture what you share
- 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 (further chat guidance)
- Please stay focused on the agenda item being discussed (Jot out note for reference later) (chat guidance)
- Share your main thoughts/key points early when speaking
- All members have the right to share their ideas and all ideas are valuable

Meeting practices (continued)

- Be respectful of the process and other participants - including privacy (avoid names)
- Listen to other members and DHS with an open mind
- Focus on the issue, not the people
- Assume positive intent – embracing a mindset that will lead to something good
- 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

Agenda

Agenda	Time (total time: two hours)
Welcome	5 minutes
WRAC member input	10 minutes
Large group discussion	75 minutes
Presentation of budget options	25 minutes
Next steps and Adjourn	5 minutes

Meeting objectives

- For WRAC members:
 - ✓ Review budget survey
 - ✓ Discuss response to budget question
 - ✓ Learn and understand options for budgets
- ✓ For DHS staff:
 - ✓ Listen to responses
 - ✓ Answer questions and note follow up

WRAC member input

Hannah Lamb Department of Human Services

WRAC member input and survey

- Via meetings, email, and budget survey
- 17 responses
- Interest in additional meetings for information and discussion
- Members let DHS know what current questions, concerns, and interests they have about individual budgets

“I think that a lot of members are lost and do not even know **how the current system works**, with all of its complexities. I believe that is what they are looking for.”

WRAC budget info sessions

- 2 two-hour info sessions
- Great discussion and complex questions
- Members told us they found the meetings helpful and felt more prepared to discuss future policy changes under Waiver Reimagine.
- After our second session, we will send questions, answers, and notes to all the WRAC members.

WRAC budget survey: what will we do next?

- **Plan more info sessions** based on topics requested and **listening sessions**.
- **Slow down** our meetings to allow ample time to discuss and learn.
- All members came into our committee with different experiences and levels of system knowledge. We need to dedicate time to gaining a shared knowledge and background.

Individual Budgets: open discussion

Hannah Lamb Department of Human Services

What have WRAC members shared about budgets so far?

“People are interested in assuring that all people, **regardless of where they live and which waiver they are on**, have individual budgets that they can control. People want to know how individual budget information will be given to them and how they can use it flexibly.”

“Assessed needs determining budget”

“Making sure **all counties are doing the "system of budgeting" the same way.**”

“The budget range for **people living independently** is way too low.”

What have WRAC members shared about budgets so far?

“How were the budget ranges determined? **How are they connected to MnCHOICES, as there seems to be a discrepancy from the current system? What are the exception processes?** How are the processes set up to handle moving between waivers? How does the budget process facilitate moving people out of residential services to their own place as the workforce shortage is creating a huge problem for independent living?”

“Criteria for determining individual budgets includes **health and 'behavioral' needs.**”

“**Flexible creative** approach can be tricky in a bureaucratic system.”

Budget open discussion

- The state legislature gives a set amount of funding for waiver services. How does DHS determine how the funding is provided to people?
- This is a chance for **you** to talk and DHS to **listen**.



Budget open discussion question

- **How would you describe an ideal budget system? What is an ideal way to distribute limited funds to people who use waiver services?**

What have we heard from other stakeholders since 2018?

- **Flexibility** to encourage person-centered supports.
- Enhance **personal authority** over service choice.
- **Simplify** waiver program information and administration.
- **Equity** across waiver programs and participants.
- **Align** benefits across waivers, regardless of disability.
- Ensure a **smooth transition**.
- Opportunity to **monitor and improve programs** to achieve greater sustainability.
- Build systems that promote **self-determination and independence**

Individual Budgets: how did we get here?

Hannah Lamb | Department of Human Services

Budget method options

“What parts of redesigning the waiver system are currently set/non-negotiable at this time so WRAC members **cannot change** that aspect of the transition and will only have input into how to best **implement...We know the current budgeting system is not perfect.**”
--WRAC member

- All budget options are not the same or perfect
- In 2017, the legislature asked DHS to study and propose a statewide budget method
- What methods we considered, the strengths and challenges of each, and which we have chosen after over 4 years of study

Slicing up the pizza



What are the strengths and challenges of not having a set budget?

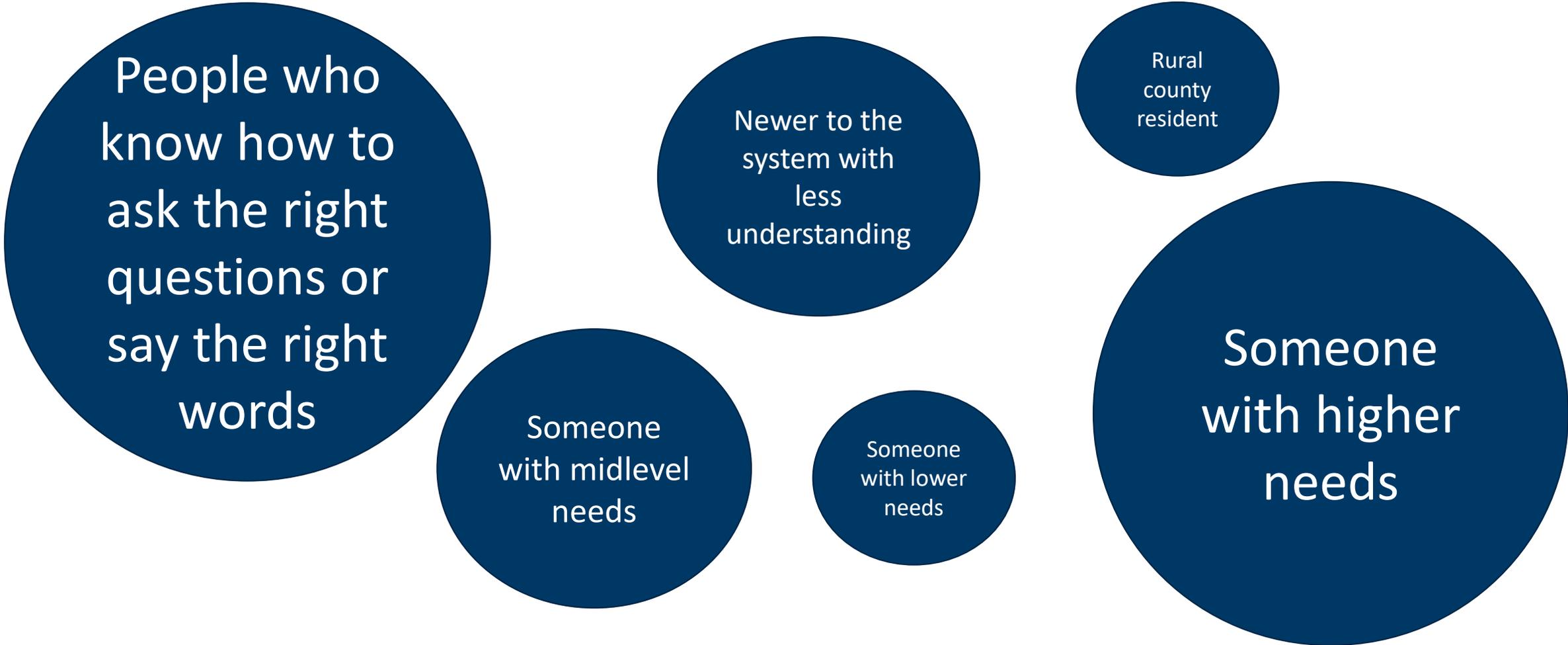
Strengths

- Everyone could have the funding they need
- Potentially less complex and administratively burdensome for people and lead agencies

Challenges

- Is not legally or fiscally feasible
- Could lead to greater inequities as some people may be able to access more money than others
- More reliant on individual staff at each lead agency

Budget options : no set budget



Pizza with no set budget

- Pizza has arrived! But it did not come pre-sliced.
- Each group of people who sat together randomly get pizza based on the rough size of their table.
- We held back extra just in case, but we don't tell anyone.
- Some people and tables knew you could ask for more pizza and others didn't.



What are the strengths and challenges of an algorithm or individual method?

Strengths

- Highly individualized and unique to each person
- Can demonstrate high accuracy depending on the assessment it's based on

Challenges

- VERY reliant on assessment
- A small change in one answer on the assessment can produce a large change in your budget
- Harder to understand
- Can limit predictability

Algorithm or individual methodology



Pizza with algorithm budget



- We attempt to distribute exactly the right amount of pizza to each person to match their hunger level.
- However, the rating of "how hungry?" is hard to capture.
- One person skipped breakfast today and was hungrier than usual, so they got extra.
- The result makes us cut down to the millimeter to match precise hunger. It's confusing and tricky and didn't match people's actual hunger.

What are the strengths and challenges of a level budget?

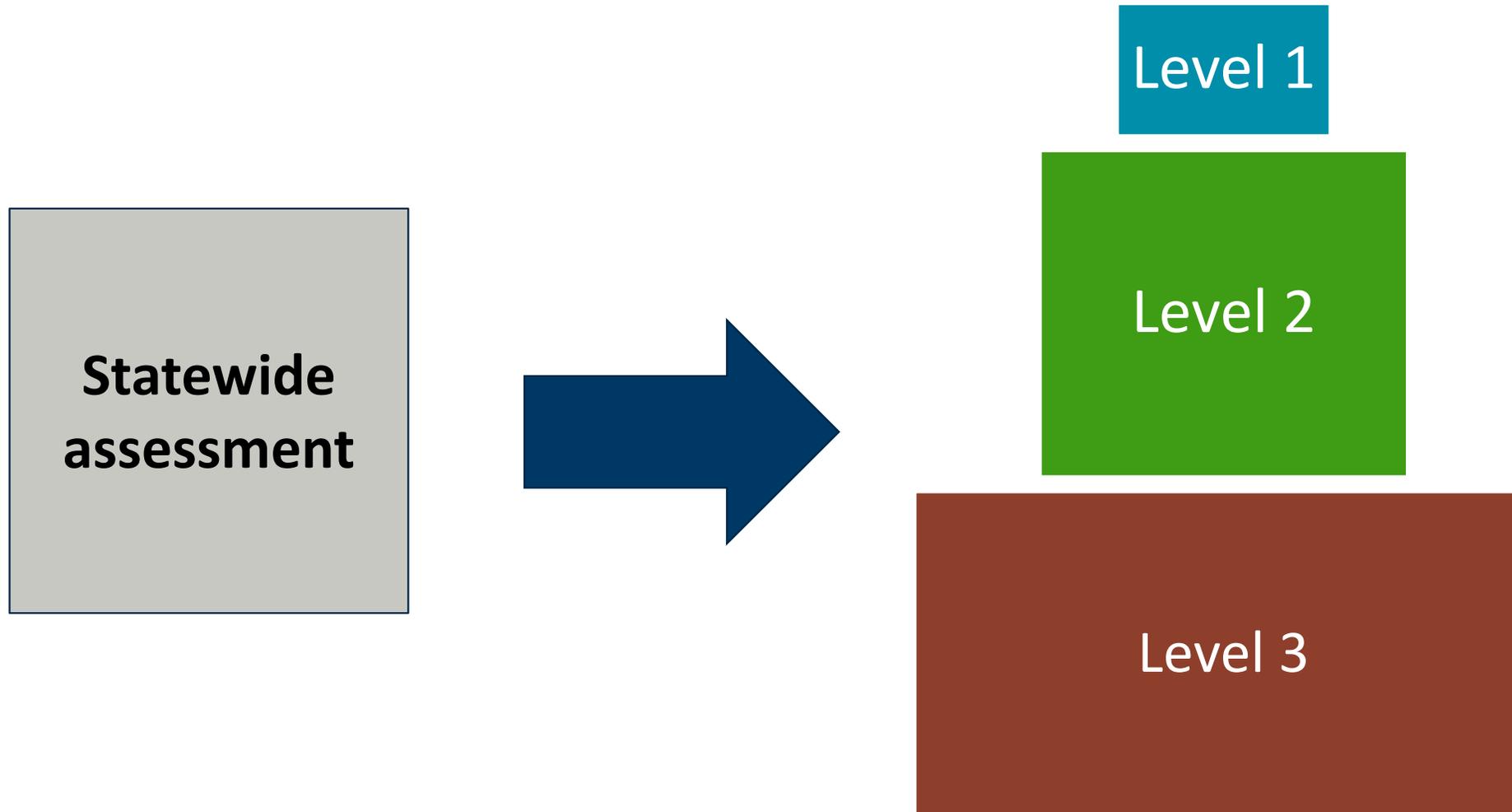
Strengths

- Can account for errors or changes in assessment by not being reliant on just a few answers
- Can be updated without affecting the entire system
- Offers a budget range
- Easier to understand

Challenges

- Less individualized or unique
- Can require additional data collection

Budget options : level methodology



Pizza with level based budgets



- Before we ordered the pizza, we reviewed how many people were coming to determine how to divide ahead of time.
- We divided the pizza by many factors including age, height, love of pizza, and hunger level.
- We let people know how many slices they could each take before we started.
- There was still a limited number of pizzas still but there were unlimited sides.

Questions and discussion

- Let's check for time
- What questions do you still have about the different method options or anything else we have presented and discussed today?

Our budget method choice

- We choose the levels methodology based on stakeholder feedback, guidance from other states, and our use of the unique state assessment MnCHOICES
- What does the level method look like in Minnesota?

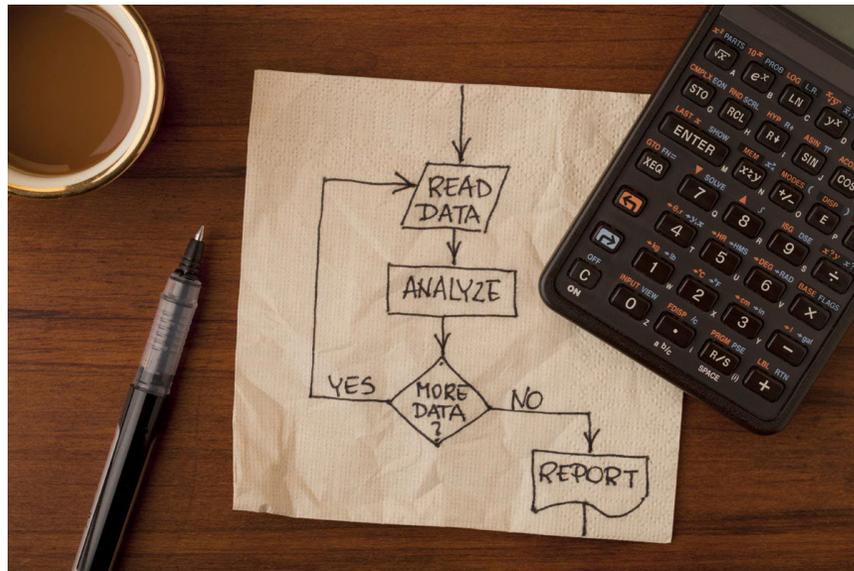


Individual Budgets: Next Steps

Hannah Lamb Department of Human Services

Future meetings

We may have chosen the method but there are a LOT more details, policies, procedures, and decisions to be analyzed, discussed, and decided.



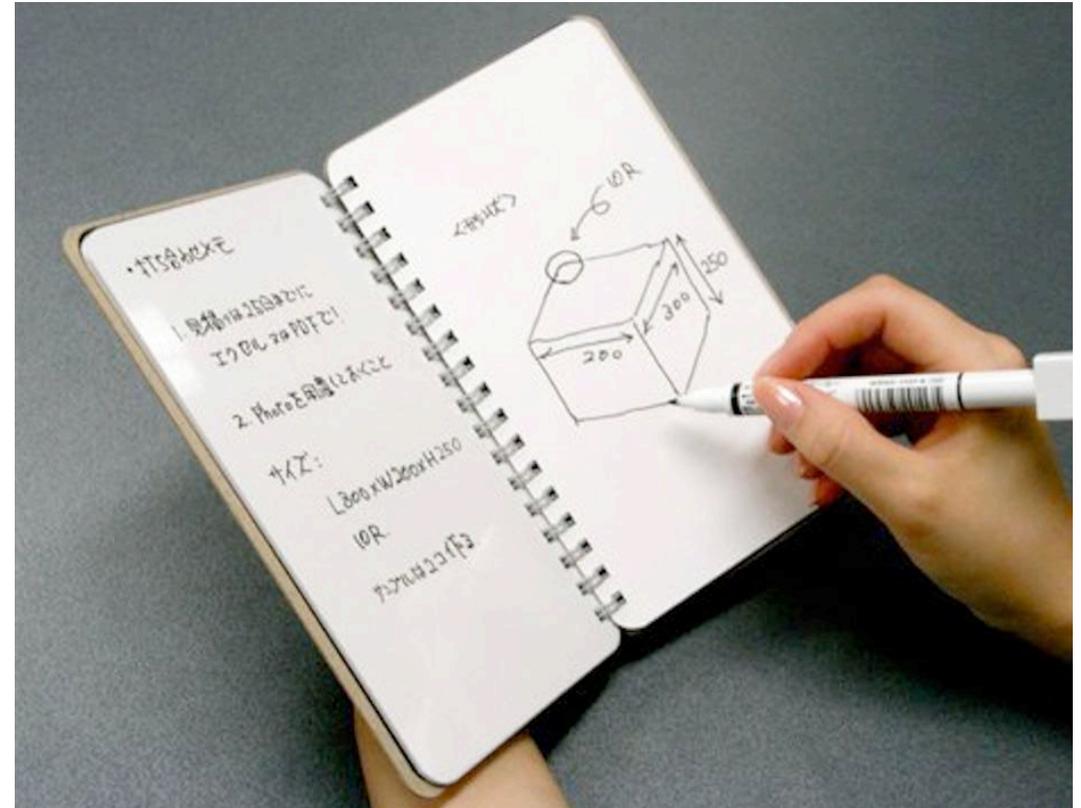
- Exact service mixes and budget amounts
- MnCHOICES assessment recalibration
- Budget exception policy and procedure
- Self-direction updated policy and procedure
- Budget communication – how to explain to people about their budgets before, during, and after implementation
- Training, manuals, and guides for lead agencies

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

- We will send meeting notes and transcript from today.
- We will plan more informational sessions.
- Next meeting is **Thursday August 25th**



Thank You!

Waiver.reimagine@state.mn.us