

Buncombe County NC - Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 7/24/2024

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: ZOOM only

Invitees		
Dan Beerman*	Suzanne Booth	Taylor Cox
Melissa Harmon	Eileen McMinn	Deborah Oldt
Susan Schiemer	Greg Zornes	
Alison Banzhoff	Billie Breeden	Zack Schmitt

*Dan was present for the In-Home Aide Presentation

- I. Welcome
 - a. Approve or Revise Agenda
 - i. There were no additions or revisions to the Agenda.
 - ii. Motion made by Susan to approve the Agenda, seconded by Suzanne. Motion carried.
 - b. Approve or Revise Meeting Minutes - June
 - i. There were no revisions to the Meeting Minutes.
 - ii. Motion made by Dan to approve the Meeting Minutes, seconded by Deborah. Motion carried.

- II. Presentation – Ryan Garcia, Impact of HCCBG Additional Funding
 - a. Ryan is the supervisor of the BC In-Home Aide Program. With the additional \$36,674 in HCCBG Funding, Ryan talked about what impact this additional funding would have on the In-Home Aide Program.
 - b. If the funding was not received, clients would have had their hours reduced by 2 hours a week from 9 hours a week to 7 hours a week. However, with the additional funding, there won't be as large of a reduction but reductions across the board are still necessary affecting clients' services.
 - c. It was determined that 16% of the total budget was serving three Level III clients who were each receiving 15 hours of service a week. Even with the additional funding, services would be cut to 12 hours a week. Reduction of these hours would cause safety concerns for these clients. Three years ago, the County along with the HCCBG Advisory Committee and community partners decided to no longer fund Level III clients; these 3 clients were grandfathered in. It has now been decided not to serve Level III clients. Ryan met with the three families.

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One client may go to rehab or have a family member take over care. Another client will be going to adult day care 3 days a week. The last client was reassessed like the other two clients. This client has improved (is ambulatory with assistance of a walker and a cane) and is a Level II client though the hours of service will be cut from 15 hours a week to 9 hours a week. The clients being discharged from the program will have services for the next 60 days.

- d. Without Level III clients, there will not be a reduction in hours of services for Level I and Level II clients right now, but this will be looked at towards the end of the fiscal year. Also, new clients can be added to the program.
 - e. Usually 2- 3 clients drop off of the program every month for various reasons and 2-3 APS clients are referred to the program each month. Highest priority of service for the IHA program is for APS clients; have to be substantiated cases to receive IHA services otherwise if the case is unsubstantiated, the client goes on the waitlist and won't receive priority.
 - f. There are about 110 clients on the waitlist with about 5 clients added each month. The additional funding will not help the waitlist.
 - g. To view the presentation and meeting, go to [Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee Meetings \(HCCBG\) - PublicInput \(buncombecounty.org\)](https://www.buncombecounty.org).
- III. Review Funding Expenditure Reports
- a. Units of Service
 - i. BC Health and Human Services was unable to spend \$14,103.
 - ii. Three agencies, Jewish Family Services, Mountain Housing Opportunities, and Meals on Wheels, reached out in May about extra funding. Zack split the excess funding fairly and each agency received an additional \$4701.
 - iii. Transylvania County was not able to spend their allocation. Some of that funding went to Madison County and the remainder (\$42,442) went to Pisgah Legal Services.
 - b. Buncombe County Supplemental Aging Funds (BCSAF)
 - i. The HCCBG Advisory Committee recommended that \$25,000 left over from the BC In-Home Aide Program be distributed to OnTrack WNC (\$7000), DayStay (\$6000), Working Wheels (\$6000) and MountainCare (\$6000). Addendums to the contracts by BC HHS Finance had to be made in the two remaining days of the fiscal year.
 - ii. Working Wheels was not able to spend all of the additional funding (\$4712.99 left), and BC HHS had \$5277.50 that was not spent for the fiscal year. Leftover BCSAF funding went back to Buncombe County.
- IV. Discussion of Funding Allocation Process
- a. Discussion ensued about how to improve the process. Prioritize to keep people at home and aging in place.

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- b. Suggestion that the committee would not fund a start-up and would like to see a history. Make this clear on application.
 - c. Committee members should look at a previous application in preparation to discuss funding priorities in further detail at the next meeting.

- V. Determine Action Items and Next Steps
 - a. August 28th meeting in person at Land of Sky Regional Council
339 New Leicester Hwy Ste 140, Asheville, NC 28806
Presentation: Medicaid Expansion