

CIS Open Agenda Call Summary: February 18, 2009

Participants: CIS Representatives from the following regions:
Bennington, Springfield, Rutland, Addison,
Chittenden, Lamoille, Newport, Windham
Representatives from the CIS State Team: Sue Schmidt, Sue Shepard,
Terri Edgerton, Danielle Howes, Sue Harding, Helen Keith
Christina Strobridge facilitating.

Next Open Agenda Call:
Weds, March 18, 2009 1-2 PM
Call in Number: 1-866-642-1665
Participant code: 471230

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Discussion Points</i>
<i>Updates</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No announcements have been made to date about a new Deputy Commissioner appointment. ▪ Sue Schmidt became the CDD CIS Director beginning in February. Copy blurb from DCF news (will insert from Waterbury—can't access it from home)
<i>Medicaid Budget Cuts</i>	<p>Question: What can you tell us about the proposed 4% across-the-board reduction to the state budget and Medicaid cuts?</p> <p>The Governor has proposed a budget that counts on a huge Federal Stimulus infusion to bridge much of the shortfall, but also asks a wide variety of non-profit partners, contract and grant recipients, medical providers, beneficiaries and other Vermonters to share in the cost reductions. A reduction in State personnel costs will also be necessary. 4% is still the budget reduction figure from the governor's office. AHS has already acted on this directive by notifying affected parties. Details are still unknown. Specifics regarding the priorities for stimulus money and state spending will be coming over the next 2-3 weeks from the Governor's office. Check the JFO website frequently for the latest information on proposed cuts and stimulus money. http://www.leg.state.vt.us/JFO/</p> <p>The current economic crisis is definitely impacting services for children and families. Cuts will have different impacts in different communities depending on how each region has accessed and used Medicaid allocations. Expect a constantly shifting budgetary landscape for the next few months.</p>
<i>CIS Brochure</i>	<p>Question: What is the status of the CIS Brochure?</p> <p>A draft CIS brochure is currently in active development. The purpose is informational for families: How can CIS help you and how do you access CIS. It will also be useful for referring partners although it has been recommended to use a poster or tear-off notepads to outreach referral partners. Draft versions will be sent to the regions for input and review by the end of March. The state team will take general feedback for a week after it goes out to the regions, and then turn it back to Marketing Partners for final product ready for regions to use by April.</p>
<i>One Plan/Shared CIS</i>	<p>Question: Please talk about the One Plan progress to date.</p>

<p><i>Program Paperwork</i></p>	<p>Sue Schmidt met with Vermont Assembly of Home Health Agencies (VAHHA) last week. The One Plan as it is now cannot be used for billing and auditing for VAHHA members or for Mental Health. We must marry clinical documentation, billing and auditing so as to not create duplicative work. The goal must be for a Single Plan of Care for the CIS program services. Must be useable for every provider.</p> <p>Essentially, when we speak of the One Plan, we are really talking about shared paperwork and common documentation standards for the CIS Program to ensure clear, non-duplicative communication pathways across departments and with partners. We are starting with what can work already, for example, many regions are using the shared referral and intake forms. Currently the state team is working to align with existing processes such as coordinated service plans, MH documentation, identify common elements we are all already collecting.</p> <p>Priority for July 1 is to all be using the same common referral and intake form.</p>
<p><i>BBF Reductions</i></p>	<p><u>Question:</u> Can we discuss the BBF cuts as they impact CIS?</p> <p>Two key stakeholders meetings have been held so far to discuss the ramifications of the cuts to BBF director positions. It is clear that for most regions, the loss of the BBF director is detrimental to ECE and not a good idea for long term EC systems. The message from the administration and the legislature is clear that the cuts will happen, the BBF money is gone from the budget.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> People are asking if BBF directors will become CIS coordinators. Will CIS coordinators be named and hired? Sue Schmidt responded that CIS coordination will definitely be needed in each community. There will NOT be 12 new positions for this work. There is no new funding; there is no transfer of BBF funds to CIS coordination. Also, that model of the state giving and then taking positions does not work to build sustainable infrastructure (such as what happened w/BBF directors). The goal for CIS is that the state clearly identifies what CIS coordination is needed, define functions, qualifications, job description, and then identifies the total CIS funding available to regions so they can design the infrastructure for coordination that works for them. CIS coordination will look different in different communities.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> Will there continue to be a close connection between BBF State Council and CIS? The work will go on but will obviously be diminished. The regional plans are an example. The state council must hold the big picture and connections. Approximately \$185,000 still in the BBF budget. Council with Becky Gonyea is still trying to figure out exactly how this will work given all the changes. Must stay clear regarding the vision and systems for ECE. Many components. CIS is a crucial part of the EC system. It will not replace BBF functions.</p>
<p><i>Next Open Agenda Call</i></p>	<p>Next call is scheduled for Weds March 18, 2009 from 1-2 PM. Please note that this is also Early Childhood Day at the Legislature.</p> <p>Open Agenda calls occur on the third Wednesday of each month from 1-2 PM.</p> <p>Call in Number: 1-866-642-1665</p> <p>Participant code: 471230</p> <p>Reminders are sent out a few days ahead of each call.</p> <p>Summary notes are sent to CIS teams statewide after the call.</p>