



IDD Mill Levy Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Mill Levy Advisory Council, BCHHS

IDD Advisory Council Meeting

Fri, May 15, 2020 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM (MDT)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/874106453>

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Access Code: 874-106-453

Council Members in Attendance: Katie Ashburner, Robin Bolduc, Deana Cairo, Robert Enderson, Miranda Fisher, Teresa Greene, Bob Lawhead, Julie Marshall, Timothy Maxwell, Anna Stewart

Absent: Dana Scritchfield

Boulder County Employees: Rebecca Seiden, IDD Mill Levy Coordinator and Sara Boylan, IMPACT Major Contracts Manager

Meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Chairperson Julie Marshall. Meeting was held by Global GoToMeeting due to shelter in place order by Governor Jared Polis.

April Meeting minutes were read by Rebecca Seiden. Timothy Maxwell made a motion to approve minutes as read. Julie Marshall seconded the motion. Motion to approve minutes was unanimously approved by Advisory Council.

There were no community members on the call for public comment.

Rebecca Novinger, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Imagine!, participated in the meeting to answer some of the questions the Advisory Council had. Novinger was able to meet with the Advisory Council until 12:45 pm and will be attending the June meeting as well to answer additional questions that the Advisory Council did not have time to review during the May meeting.

1. What is your vision of Imagine!'s role with the development of housing in Boulder County for persons with IDD?

Novinger stated that the critical need is for accessible, affordable housing and that Imagine! is working on their strategic plan this year, where they will be asking the community for feedback and using that information to determine where the organization should put their resources

specific to housing. Novinger added that she wants to be sure that housing options are personalized to the individuals' needs.

2. **Are Imagine! case managers checking in with individuals on their caseload at more frequent intervals during the “stay at home “and “safer at home” orders?**

Novinger explained that case managers are assessing their case loads to identify who are high risk to ensure that there are more frequent check ins with those individuals. Novinger added that regional area agencies are responsible for providing medical care to individuals while they are sheltering in place.

3. **Is Imagine! monitoring service agencies providing residential services to understand what processes/procedures agency HHPs are engaging in to reduce exposure to the virus?**

Novinger stated that all providers are expected to adhere to the Health Care Policy and Financing guidelines on how to limit the exposure to the virus and that if an agency is not in compliance, they should be reported to the state.

4. **Has Imagine! provided expectations to agencies for in-home infection control, required use of PPE, limiting travel away from home or is Imagine leaving that up to the judgement of individual provider agencies and their individual staff and contractors?**

Novinger noted that Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Public Health and Environment provide this oversight and that Imagine! follows those agencies guidelines for incident reporting.

5. **Do you have a view or commitment to integrated vs. congregate housing?**

Novinger explained that she does not anticipate that Imagine! will build another group home and that while group homes may be successful for some, there needs to be more housing options and environments where people will be successful.

6. **Housing initiatives seem to work within silos. For example, Thistle worked on wheelchair accessible housing several years ago. Center for People with Disabilities had housing units in the past. Will Imagine! be partnering with other groups to address housing issues?**

Novinger stated that she thinks that it is important to collaborate with other organizations in order to be able to provide the best services to individuals within Boulder County.

7. **Not all people with IDD receive services through Imagine!. How will you reach out to them when doing your strategic planning?**

Novinger stated that Imagine! still needs to work through the process for how they will solicit feedback from all stakeholders but shared that media channels would be used to communicate that Imagine! is seeking feedback from the community.

8. **Do you think Imagine! will change their minds with regards to holding the summer programs that were recently canceled like Out and About?**

Novinger explained that she does not anticipate that Imagine! will change their minds about the summer programs, mainly because adhering to the social distancing and public health requirements are too challenging and would impact the organizations ability to provide services in the safest way possible.

Rebecca Seiden reviewed the mill levy ballot language that was approved by the voters. Sarah Boylan explained that the whole ballot is for \$1.5 million and that \$1 million is for IDD, autism, and TBI and that the other \$.5 million is for mental health services. It was noted by the Advisory Council that the language in the mill levy is dated and that there have been a lot of changes to services since the ballot language was adopted.

The council reviewed the Boulder County Needs Assessment, specifically focusing on the priority needs identified by stakeholders and the recommendations made for each priority area identified (pages 13 – 30 of the assessment). Concerns and comments presented during this time included:

Housing:

- Finding agencies to complete evaluations is challenging, noting that Imagine! will pay for the evaluations but that they will typically differ to Medicaid to complete, which can take time.
- More training is needed to recognize who may have IDD.
- Need to stop waiting until an individual is in crisis mode before services are provided.
- Need a better understanding of what the host home regulations and guidelines are. Teresa Greene shared this link with the council regarding host homes:
<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=6509&fileName=10%20CCR%202505-10%208.500>
- Need to focus more on life sharing/companion housing models.
- Boulder County has assisted 3-4 families with IDD with rental assistance during COVID-19. Families can call or visit the website for more information about their housing assistance programs.
 - Housing Assistance Line: 303-441-1206
 - Website: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/covid-19-resources/#housing>

Systems Navigation, Case Management and Advocacy

- Workforce issues is a concern. Timothy Maxwell shared that the state passed a 6% increase in March 2019 that is a passthrough to direct support providers and that during COVID-19, there is a temporary 8% increase for direct care employees.
- There is a need to better understand how agencies train their case managers and employees.
- The compliant process needs to be reviewed on an individual case-by-case basis.

Mental Health:

- Need to better understand cross over services between mental health and IDD providers.

Self-Advocacy, Community Engagement and Social Connectedness

- There needs to be more opportunities for self-advocacy, education and awareness.

Community Education & IDD Awareness

- Theresa Greene stated that she is working on programming for educating law enforcement on IDD.

Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation: *No noted comments or concerns.*

Rebecca Seiden tasked the Advisory Council with completing the following prior to the next meeting:

- Identify specific questions the Advisory Council wants answered about the programming and how the mill levy is used at Imagine!
- Determine how the Advisory Council should prioritize addressing the needs assessment, identifying both long-term and short-term goals, and whether subcommittees should be developed.

Timothy Maxwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31pm. Bob Lawhead seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by Advisory Council.

Submitted by Miranda Fisher