

# Redefine Nursing Home Criteria and Build Capacity Taskforce 2019 Final Report



## Study Assignment

The redefine Nursing Home Criteria and Build Capacity Taskforce was charged with the task of redefining Human Service Center nursing home admission criteria and build mental health nursing home capacity for persons with organic brain damage.

## Summary of Interim

At the first meeting on July 17, the taskforce heard from Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, Deputy Secretary Department of Social Services, and Jeremy Johnson, Director of Clinical Services at Human Services Center (HSC), on the long-term care unit at HSC including involuntary admission criteria, process, and cost of operation. The taskforce also heard from Anita Dunham, Systems Director of Case Management and Utilization at Rapid City Regional regarding challenges that community hospitals and nursing homes face when taking people with behavioral issues related to dementia or Alzheimer's. Lastly, Alicia Smith and other presenters from Vorys Health Care Advisors presented on other states' approaches for delivery of geropsychiatric care in community-based settings. The team presented the approaches used in the state of Virginia and Tennessee including Move Initiative and Palliative Care. Mark Deak from SD Health Care Organization provided public testimony concerning long-term care facilities' challenges with residents with behavioral issues.

The second meeting was held on October 1st and 2nd in Yankton. During the first day, Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, Deputy Secretary Department of Social Services, Jeremy Johnson, Director of Clinical Services, and Yvette Thomas, Director of Long-term Services and Supports from the Department of Human Services, provided information regarding the cost of the HSC geriatric unit and reimbursement rate for a community-based nursing home. Sakura Rohleder, fiscal and program analyst Legislative Research Council, presented information on other states' admission criteria for a state-owned or operated nursing home. Sarah Peterson, Wellness Director from Codington County, along with Lucy Lewno, chair of Yankton Mental Health Board, provided an overview of the commitment process and other information from the county government and the county mental health board perspective.

For the second day, Tom Stange, CEO from Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services, and Lindsey McCarthy, CEO from Southern Plains Behavioral Health Services, explained the services offered to their residents through a crisis team and telehealth. Chris Qualm, administrator from the Department of Health, provided information regarding the facility surveys and common deficiencies found among facilities with behavioral health units. Lastly, Thomas Otten, Behavioral Health Service Line Administrator at Avera Health, explained the importance of HSC from a private nursing home perspective, and offered potential legislation. The taskforce discussed the mental health services continuum of care, workforce issues for the healthcare industry and challenges of workforce retention. Conner Fiscarelli from Custer Regional Health provided public testimony concerning the gap between resources available throughout the state and resources needed to be compliant with the regulations related to the community-based facilities.

The third meeting was held on October 30 in Pierre. Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, Deputy Secretary Department of Social Services, and Jeremy Johnson, Director of Clinical Services, provided information regarding the Human Services Center's number of residents who can be discharged but have no placements and the Medicaid eligibility determination process. Yvette Thomas, Director of Long-term Services and Supports from the Department of Human Services, provided follow up information regarding reimbursement rates for community-based nursing homes and the information updating process at Dakota at Home. Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Secretary of Department of Human Services, provided information on the nursing home rates methodology review workgroup as well as innovation grants which were proposed by Governor Noem's administration during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Taskforce members considered and voted to endorse recommendations focusing on expediting the Medicaid eligibility determination process, reimbursement rates for community-based nursing homes, additional education opportunities specific to mental health issues in South Dakota, and an effort to place people closer to or back in their communities.

### **Listing of Legislation Adopted by the Committee**

There is no legislation adopted by the taskforce.

### **Listing of Recommendation Adopted by the Committee**

1. Department of Social Services to establish a process that allows preauthorization of Medicaid eligibility prior to admission to the long-term facilities
2. Increase availability and 24/7 access to Telehealth
3. To encourage Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference to include a forum for a mental health issue in South Dakota for the 2020 conference
4. Department of Human Services to submit a request for information in providing a specialized unit to treat geriatric mental health patients that are discharged from the HSC geriatric unit, and submit the report to the members of this taskforce, Joint Committee on Appropriations, and Executive Board by the end of the Fiscal Year 2020
5. Human Services Center to sponsor one continuing medical education class related to mental health case studies during the calendar year 2020
6. Department of Human Services to create a workgroup to review the definition and criteria for add-on payment for community-based nursing home providers

### **Summary of Meeting Dates and Places**

The taskforce met in Pierre on July 17. Members toured facilities in Yankton on October 1, and met after the tour as well as the following day. The last taskforce meeting was held on October 30 in Pierre.

### **Listing of Committee Members**

Members of the taskforce are Representative Jean Hunhoff, Chair; Representative Rebecca Reimer, Vice Chair; Representative Chris Johnson, Senator Rocky Blare, Senator Susan Wismer, Anthony Erickson, Dr. Deepak Goyal, Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, Jeremy Johnson, Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Phil Samuelson, and Laura Wilson.

### **Listing of Staff Members**

Staff members for the taskforce are Sakura Rohleder, Fiscal and Program Analyst, Michael Loesevitz, Senior Legislative Attorney, Tamara Darnall, Chief Fiscal and Program Analyst, and Rachael Person, Senior Legislative Secretary.

