

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1/25/2023

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: ZOOM only

Invitees		
Dan Beerman	Suzanne Booth	Rebecca Hartz
Eileen McMinn	Susan Schiemer	Greg Zornes
Meg White	Billie Breeden	Zack Schmitt
Jennifer Teague	LeeAnne Tucker	

Not in attendance: Meg White and Jennifer Teague

- I. Welcome
 - a. Approve or Revise Agenda
 - i. The agenda was revised. Julia Buchanan, Director of Finance at Council on Aging (COA), would be speaking about the rate request for the In-Home Aide (IHA) program after the approval of the minutes.
 - b. Approve or Revise Meeting Minutes – December
 - i. Motion made by Dan Beerman to approve the Meeting Minutes, seconded by Suzanne Booth. Motion carried.

- II. COA Presentation and Discussion of COA IHA Request for Rate Increase
 - a. COA contracts with IHA providers to provide services to County residents. In their FY 2023 COA HCCBG Grant Application they requested a payment rate for IHA Level I, II,III of \$28.28, \$29.00, and \$29.73 respectively. These rates are comprised of two parts, payment to the providers and COA case management expense. COA's midyear analysis determined that IHA staff shortages would not allow full utilization of the grant funding.
 - b. In order to attract more direct care staff, so that more services could be provided, COA asked their providers to increase the hourly aide wage to \$17.70 per hour. Three COA IHA Providers agreed to the increase All Ways Caring, First Light Home Care, and Premier Home Health. Home Instead would not be increasing the hourly wage. Home Instead provides 196 Level II units per month and their administrative costs are higher than other providers for the clients they serve; the rate increase would cover their administrative costs and would not go to the aides.

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- c. Staff shortages have impacted COA’s ability to provide the units (hours) of service proposed. The following chart shows the number of units proposed in the FY 2023 application “Current Units” (19,291) to the actual units provided “Total Units as of 1/1/23 (5,917.9).”

Council on Aging IHA: Requested Unit Rate Revision											
Cost	Current Rates	Requested Rate	Current Provider Rate	Request Provider Rate	Current Rate to Aide	Requested Rate to Aide	Current Case Management Rate	Requested Case Management Rate	Difference in CM Rate		
Level 1	\$ 28.28	\$ 35.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 31.00	unknown	\$ 17.70	\$ 3.28	\$ 4.00	\$ 0.72		
Level 2	\$ 29.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 25.64	\$ 33.00	unknown	\$ 17.70	\$ 3.36	\$ 4.00	\$ 0.64		
Level 3	\$ 29.73	\$ 38.00	\$ 26.28	\$ 34.00	unknown	\$ 17.70	\$ 3.45	\$ 4.00	\$ 0.55		
Units Billed	Current Units	Requested Rate	Difference	As of 1/1/23 Units Billed County	As of 1/1/23 Units Billed (HCCBG)	Total Units as of 1/1/23	Remaining Units w/ rate change				
Level 1	2379	796	1583	0.5	363	363.5	432.5				
Level 2	12237	11112	1125	2571.15	1922	4493.15	6618.85				
Level 3	4675	2141	2534	1061.25	0	1061.25	1079.75				
Total	19291	14049	5242	3632.9	2285	5917.9	8131.1				
Case Management Cost Review	Units	Overall CM rate (prior)	CM Rate County to 1/1/23	CM Rate Current HCCBG	CM Rate past with HCCBG (w/ Back pay)	Difference in CM Rate (Back Pay)	Remaining Units w/ CM Rate Change				
Level 1	\$ 7,803.12	\$ 1.64	\$ 1,190.64	\$ 1,452.00	\$ 261.36	\$ 1,730.00					
Level 2	\$ 41,116.32	\$ 8,639.06	\$ 6,457.92	\$ 7,688.00	\$ 1,230.08	\$ 26,475.40					
Level 3	\$ 16,128.75	\$ 3,661.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,319.00					
Total	\$ 65,048.19	\$ 12,302.02	\$ 7,648.56	\$ 9,140.00	\$ 1,491.44	\$ 32,524.40					
Total paid for CM				\$ 53,966.42							

- d. Next COA’s IHA program cost was reviewed.
- i. HCCBG funding regulations require that grantees provide additional dollars (10% match) to their programs. This additional amount can either be in cash or in-kind. The FY 2023 application indicated that the provider match would be made in cash. With the rate increase COA would like the cash match to be replaced with an in-kind match to better help manage IHA cost.
 - ii. Also, while reviewing the FY 2023 grant application, COA determined that additional staff cost for the finance director or executive director salaries were not included.
- e. It was noted that no additional funding was requested. COA hopes that increasing CNA hourly wage will attract more direct care staff.
- f. COA requested a case management rate of \$4.00 to cover inhouse program cost and a provider rate for Level I, II, III of \$31.00, \$33.00, \$34.00 respectively, thus, bringing the total new IHA rates to \$35.00, \$37.00 and \$38.00 respectively.

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- g. Dan Beerman made a motion to approve the IHA rates as proposed by COA which includes a COA case management rate of \$4.00 with follow up information by COA - financial statements, Executive Director's insights on rate increase leading to better outcomes, and revised 732, 732A, and 732A1 forms sent to Zack Schmitt. Suzanne Booth seconded. Motion carried.
- III. Share Feedback from Grant Application Review Meeting
- a. The FY24 Aging Services Program Application was released on Tuesday, January 17 and will close on Friday, February 24.
 - b. Committee Members should test the buncombecounty.org/apply site to make sure it works for reviewing applications. Reach out to Billie if there are problems.
 - c. There were some new providers at the review meeting. Meg White had sent Billie Breeden a list of providers to contact about the funding and meeting. Rebecca Hartz was glad to see new providers at the meeting.
 - d. Billie Breeden shared that she presented to the Burton Street Elite Club about the funding and application. There was interest.
- IV. Review December Funding Expenditures
- a. Units of Service - Reviewed
 - b. Buncombe County Supplemental Aging Funds (BCSAF) – Reviewed
 - c. Suzanne Booth asked if anyone had information about MountainCare and was concerned about their programs. MountainCare was underspending in the Transportation and Group Respite Programs. Lack of transportation from Mountain Mobility is a problem. The Group Respite Program just started back up and is running per Zack Schmitt. Susan Schiemer shared that Mountain Mobility will be presenting at the next HCCBG Advisory Committee Meeting on February 22.
- V. Other
- a. Zack Schmitt shared that the week before NCDAAS sent an administrative letter increasing the cap for housing and home improvement projects from \$1500 - \$7000 per project. The Committee may see an increase in usage over the next several months in FY23.
- VI. Determine Action Items and Next Steps
- a. Billie Breeden will reach out to the underperforming service providers to see if they want to relinquish funding six months into FY23 so that reallocations don't all take place at the end of FY23.