The Council meeting was called to order at 3:08pm by Co-chairperson Ann Pierce at the Denver Human Services (DHS) Castro location, 1200 Federal Blvd. Denver, Colorado.

**Introductions & Minutes Review**

The meeting opened with a brief welcome, followed by introductions from the Council members, Denver Human Services (DHS) staff, and guests. The Council reviewed minutes from the previous meeting held on 05-09-2019. Motion made by J.J. Tomash and seconded by Betty Lehman. Minutes approved 6-0-0.

**Information Sharing and DHS Updates**

Tim Lomas gave an update on the last RMHS CAC meeting. At the May meeting, the CAC members discussed information they’d like to see in the external agency initiatives proposal summary in future funding cycles, so CAC members to can review proposal concepts applying for mill levy funding through RMHS. RMHS also provided the CAC with an update on conflict free case management. The presentation from this update will be uploaded to the RMHS website along with other documents from the previous meeting (held Tuesday, May 21). The next RMHS CAC meeting is scheduled for August 20.

Lauren Weinstock shared an update related to the DD-waitlist’s consideration for caregiver capacity, including age, health, lack of good health. This change came about June 1st, and is fairly new.

DHS shared general announcements which included:
• Email sent about upcoming meetings- Council members and those in attendance were invited to forward this announcement to anyone that may be interested in the Council’s work.
• The next Mill Levy Advisory Council meeting will be on July 11th at Fleming Mansion from 6-7:30pm. Public comment will remain the same (20 minutes at the end of the meeting).
• DHS will be appearing at City Council Safety Housing Education Homeless Committee at 10:30am at the City and County Office Building on Wednesday, June 19. This meeting is recorded and is available online- Crystal Porter will send a link to Council members.
• Laradon has an annual summer carnival on June 21st from 10am-2pm in Globeville. Fun carnival that is family friendly, and often have tables with resources available. RMHS to attend.

DHS then gave an update on recommendations produced 4/19:

• Recommendations for the appeals board, feedback loop, and variety in partners will be returning to the Council with follow up questions.
• DHS is beginning to draft an RFP for the inclusion recommendation. Once the RFP is posted, DHS will push an announcement out through various channels and networks to give as many people as possible an opportunity to respond.
• Recommendations for understanding the mill levy are in progress- DHS is working through these recommendations and presented a draft of a Mill Levy Advisory Council FAQ document for discussion. Council members are invited to provide feedback on the document draft to DHS.
• Recommendations for respite and waitlist emergency fund are on hold. DHS continues to explore available resources and opportunities to enhance or expand services in these areas.
• Background investigation in progress for the home modifications recommendation, currently on the back burner due to the priorities of the Council.

In future, DHS will return recommendations to the Council when there is need for clarification or further discussion and provide updates on any emerging timelines as they develop.

Tim Lomas asked about the complexity related to the appeals board and whether DHS thinks there is a way to get the appeals board done. DHS is returning to the Council to learn more about the goals and desired outcomes for this recommendation.

**Subcommittee Development**

Ann Pierce walked through the assigned subcommittee members for the 3 groups that formed at the last meeting:

**Housing: Tim Lomas, Lauren Weinstock, Kendall Rames**
**Transition Services: Ann Pierce, Betty Lehman, Kate Williams**
**Mental Health: Kendall Rames, J.J. Tomash, Lauren Weinstock (added at the meeting upon request)**

Per the needs assessment, each subcommittee will focus on:
• Housing to explore supported housing for those within Denver with IDD, to explore landlords accepting vouchers and integrate them with others within the communities in which they live.
• Study Transition Services to see where in Denver Mill Levy dollars can best help enhance services, learn about best practices, self-directed planning, and family involvement.
• Mental Health connect mental health partners with the IDD providers and create partnerships to better integrate services.

DHS clarified that the Council is not limited to the needs assessment. However, the needs assessment recommendations should be guiding the work and may be helpful as the Council explores each topic. The Request for Information (RFI) overview can be used as well to inform the work.

Ann Pierce asked about what parameters the Council should be aware of as they engage professionals to present. Subcommittees can work with DHS to engage subject matter experts (SMEs) to come in and share information about a topic. Additionally, subcommittees can determine what they want to do, if anything, to further engage the community on their topic. Betty Lehman asked whether the Council’s subcommittees would only engage SMEs that will not be applying for Mill Levy Funds. DHS is consulting with legal to determine the best ways to engage SMEs and avoid potential conflicts. Tim Lomas asked whether they could invite a SME in as a subcommittee or for the full committee to hear. DHS stated that no matter where the SME presents, that presentation would need to be open to the public, and that there were various options for both subcommittees and the full committee to learn from SMEs. The Council then quickly gathered with their subcommittees to make some plans and set timelines for the groups to meet. Lauren Weinstock provided an update from the Housing subcommittee on next steps, including attending upcoming meetings with the Douglas County CCB and the State’s upcoming Outreach and Training meeting for affordable housing in Centennial. A point person from each subcommittee will send an update to DHS on what their next steps are and whether they may need additional resources.

**Discussion [Resource Directory Recommendation]**

DHS shared a sample document related to DHS’s recommendation review and gave an update on DHS activities related to this recommendation, along with visits to Mile High United Way 2-1-1 and DRCOG to discuss current resources and opportunities to collaborate. In the document, the background section generally captures top factors to be considered related to the recommendation. DHS considerations document many questions that came up from internal DHS consultation meetings across teams. Resources were also listed such as research on best practices around access, technology, and online engagement for people with IDD. DHS also shared that AdvocacyDenver is working on a training library that may help families navigate services.

The Council discussed barriers and identified unmet needs that might prohibit families from accessing a resource directory or service, such as:

- Accessible language and common terms
- Out of date information for service providers
• Searchability of services
• Capturing waitlists for services, whether providers are taking new clients (viable resources now)
• Protocols for contacts for various teams with the service provider
• Tap into the THRIVE Center directory
• Vetted professionals on resource lists to protect customers or disclaimer for provider listings
• Links to other ratings sites, such as Yelp
• Videos built into directories to help visual learners
• Links to words that are more difficult to understand
• Websites and directories exposed to tech savvy people for feedback
• Websites geared to both caregivers and persons with IDD
• Consequences for referrals that negatively impact someone’s life

After discussion, the Council members wrote ideas onto post it notes and placed them on sheets around the room identifying barriers, gaps, opportunities, and changes for the DHS mill levy program web pages. Crystal Porter will synthesize comments and report out at the next meeting.

DHS shared some ideas about getting people connected to resources, including exploring technology training and support for individuals to access online resources and platforms, information specialists that may be able to help build up a vast network of resources, and DHS’s client-facing portal. Kate Williams mentioned the work with No Wrong Door, and the importance of warm hand offs across services to ensure families are supported.

Public comment (2 minutes per speaker, up to 20 minutes)

Co-chair Ann Pierce recognized members of the public for comment and called on each person who signed up, before opening it up to anyone else in the remaining minutes. Five public comments were made- the first commenter shared his experiences turning his home into a SMART home, and how technology has supported his ability to live independently in his community. The second commenter mentioned various funding ideas that could meet needs of Denver residents, including Vineland assessments, legal fees, and technology. This commenter also suggested members of the public participate in subcommittees. The third commenter was a professional who discussed the opportunity to directly service families through flexible spending accounts. The fourth commenter was a special education teacher who shared her experiences and the need for easy and equitable access to information for families. The fifth commenter agreed that finding information about the system is challenging and shared his appreciation for the knowledge and collaboration of the program and Council. A request was made for an accommodation for written public comments at meetings.

The Council meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

*Mill Levy Advisory Council sessions are recorded; recordings are available upon request.*