The Council meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Co-chairperson J.J. Tomash at the Family Crisis Center, 2929 W. 10th Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

Introductions & Minutes Review

The meeting opened with a brief welcome, followed by introductions from the Council members and Denver Human Services (DHS) staff. The Council reviewed minutes from the previous meeting held on 04-19-2019, and changes were requested including updating the names of meeting guests and language on page 3 of the minutes. J.J. Tomash motioned to approve the minutes with the discussed changes, and Tim Lomas seconded- the motion passed with majority vote.

Information Sharing and DHS Updates

Crystal Porter provided updates on DHS’s review of recommendations made on 4/19, which includes:

- Reviewing background and researching opportunities for comparative case studies and models
- Meeting with teams within DHS to further evaluate recommendations
- Meeting with executive management to review progress and obtain feedback

DHS fielded questions and comments from Council members about specific recommendations from 4/19, and shared updates on: the appeals board, respite support, and the website directory recommendations. Many of the recommendations for understanding the mill levy can be acted on.
The next Council meeting will be held on June 18, 2019 from 3-5 pm at the DHS Castro building. DHS is exploring options for offering meetings at a variety of times and locations, as discussed at the previous meeting. DHS expects that approximately every other meeting will be held at the DHS Castro campus.

On June 19 from 10:30am-12:00pm DHS will meet with the City Council SAFEHOUSE committee. Council members and community members are invited to attend.

DHS shared that the City Auditors Office is currently conducting an audit on the mill levy program and the contract DHS holds with RMHS. Audit recommendations have the potential to inform the work DHS is doing with the Council. DHS believes the audit report will be completed late summer, and will be released to the public.

**Legislative Overview**

Guest speaker Lauren Harvey, legislative liaison for DHS, provided an overview of Colorado State legislative actions that may impact programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Lauren Harvey discussed HB17-1343 conflict-free case management, HB 18-1407 regarding access to services and a stable workforce, HB 14-1051 Developmental Disability Services Strategic Plan, SB 18-145 Implement Employment First Recommendations, and the Medicaid HCBS waiver waitlists.

Lauren Harvey explained that sometimes people put themselves on the waitlist as early as possible, anticipating a need for services later. Of the 3,000+ individuals on the waitlist across the state, not all of those individuals necessarily need the comprehensive service now. Lauren Harvey reported Colorado has made incremental investments to address the HCBS-DD waiver waitlist (also known as the Comprehensive waiver) every year. HCPF currently requests enough funding to eliminate waitlists for the Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) and Children’s Extensive Services (HCBS-CES) waivers.

Jennifer Beck asked if there are people who stay on the waitlist for decades because they turn down their spots. Lauren Harvey reported that it could be because they turn down their spot at the time or because there are situations where the funding provided is prioritized for emergency placements, for individuals who are transferring from the CHRP waiver, and for individuals with aging caregivers.

Jennifer Beck shared that RMHS currently connects those individuals in Denver that are on the waitlist for the DD waiver to services via other waivers as well as through mill levy funded programs. RMHS’s current mill levy contract also funds a waitlist coordinator who works with those waitlisted individuals to support their access to services.

Lauren Harvey reported that last year the Colorado state legislature funded approximately 649 enrollments for the DD waiver, and 60 of those individuals on the waitlist declined because they were not currently in need of DD waiver services.
Discussion

J.J. Tomash recognized the Council on the work done at the last meeting, lead discussion on what worked, and how the Council might move forward. The effectiveness of subcommittees was discussed, as well as whether they might be incorporated into future work. Council members generally expressed satisfaction with the work of the subcommittees. DHS suggested the Council consider forming subcommittees to execute next steps for upcoming summer meetings, including: investigating new topics, organizing listening sessions, and identifying subject matter experts.

Lauren Weinstock additionally requested that more time be built into the process, and that members work with DHS to gather initial feedback on the subcommittees’ ongoing work on various topics.

Tim Lomas suggested that any guest speakers be available for regular Council meetings in addition to individually held subcommittee meetings. DHS identified that a conflict of interest could arise if any guest speaker to a subcommittee later submitted a contract proposal for mill levy funds to DHS on that same topic or recommendation, and suggested that guest speakers be invited to Council meetings at-large to engage both Council members and the public. DHS requested that subcommittees provide notification to DHS of which subject matter experts they may wish to engage for future listening sessions.

The Council formed three new subcommittees on the following topics: affordable housing, mental health, and transition services. The Council agreed to temporarily postpone further review of employment and waitlist/case management at this time.

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

Public comment was offered, and no person gave public comment. The Council meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

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