

# **WAIVER WAITLIST MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes of 2026**

**August 26, 2026**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The second meeting of the Waiver Waitlist Management Subcommittee was held on August 26, 2026, at 10:30 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Craig Richardson, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Representative Wade Williams, Co-Chair; Senator Craig Richardson, Co-Chair; Senator Karen Berg; and Representative Lisa Willner; and Steve Shannon, Secretary Steven Stack, Amy Staed, and Kelly Upchurch.

Guests: Carmen Hancock, Division Director, Department for Medicaid Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Christy Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports, Louisiana Department of Health.

LRC Staff: Stephanie Bates, DJ Burns, Julia Sprague, James Baggett, and Elizabeth Bradshaw.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2026, meeting was made by Co-Chair Wade, seconded by Senator Berg, and approved after a voice vote.

### **Update on 1915(c) Waiver Allocated Slots & Waitlist Numbers**

Carmen Hancock, Division Director, Department for Medicaid Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, presented the current waiver enrollment and waitlist data including cross-program overlap.

In response to Chair Richardson, Ms. Hancock stated each waiver runs on a different waiver year that coincides with the waiver approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). She stated changes can be made at the beginning of each waiver year such as number of approved allocated slots and reallocation. Ms. Hancock stated waiver slots can be reallocated within a month if the member has passed, however that is the only reason for immediate reallocation. She stated waiver slots that

are forfeited for all other reasons, such as moving out of state or loss of Medicaid eligibility, must be held until the start of the next waiver year as indicated by CMS.

In response to Senator Berg, Ms. Hancock stated she is unsure of the exact number of waiver slots that are currently being held for members in a rehabilitation or hospital setting but that data can be gathered and sent to the subcommittee at a later date.

In response to Mr. Shannon, Ms. Hancock stated those actively receiving services are in a filled slot, while those in allocated slots are in the planning process.

In response to Senator Berg, Secretary Stack stated there are opportunities for improvement in waiver waitlists that will be addressed in the report required in 26RS House Bill 2. He stated the changes being made will be presented in that report and sent to the Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board.

In response to Mr. Upchurch, Ms. Hancock stated the percentage of waitlist members with an allocated slot on a different waiver within the data is primarily from the Michelle P. and Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waivers. She stated she is unsure as to why the Home and Community Based Waiver number is much lower than others, but she will find out why.

In response to Ms. Staed, Ms. Hancock stated the SCL waiting list is also called future planning and allows for members to join the list when anticipating future needs.

In response to Senator Berg, Ms. Hancock stated there is emergency need criteria for those that experience a change in needs causing them to require a different waiver. She stated an example of an emergency would be the loss of a primary caregiver, causing an immediate need for the SCL waiver. Ms. Hancock stated specific cases are reviewed by case managers to determine appropriate waiver allocation. She stated allocated waiver slots do have to be held until the end of the waiver year even if the individual is moved to a different waiver. She stated it is possible to create a waitlist for future needs rather than having those individuals join the existing waitlists for anticipated needs.

### **Presentation of the Louisiana Screen for Urgency of Need (SUN) Tool**

Christy Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports, Louisiana Department of Health, presented on the Louisiana Screen for Urgency of Need (SUN) tool and how Louisiana transformed its' home and community-based services waiver waitlists.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Ms. Johnson stated the work was completed within the Louisiana Department of Health and with input from stakeholders rather than using outside vendors.

In response to Representative Willner, Ms. Johnson stated there are four separate waivers, but they can move between waivers to meet the needs of the individual.

In response to Senator Berg, Ms. Johnson stated early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) benefits for minors under the age of 21 is determined by the individual's healthcare provider and managed care organization. She stated Louisiana has the same requirements for unduplicated slots from CMS as Kentucky.

In response to Ms. Staed, Ms. Johnson stated that the assessments they use to assign waiver slots are specific to Louisiana and rely heavily on person-centered discussions with the families and patients. She stated they have also built-in space for exception requests with supporting documentation.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM.