

Cottonwood CDDO Affiliate Meeting

1/28/2025 – 2pm

Teams

Present: Angela Levy, Heather Thies, Hugh Murphy, Susan Davis, Sarah Elliott, Angela Dougan, Rhea Griggs, Colleen Hunter, De'Antay Bourn, Caitlyn Hendershott, Amber Frost, Jon Gerdel, Lynette Goldizen, Logan Pope, John Dunlap, Jeff Whittier, Kara Walters, Susan Rogers, Janine Gracy, Rebecca Guerrera, Corby Lockwood, Duane Turnbull, Jason Pattison, Elena Ivanov, Ranita Wilks, Jon Tran, Kristen Kientz, Sally Martin, and Mike Graves

1. Guest Speaker – KDADS Program Integrity & Compliance Specialist Corby Lockwood provided training on Adverse Incident Reporting.

2. System Updates

a. IDD Modernization

- i. Website - <https://www.kdads.ks.gov/services-programs/long-term-services-supports/home-and-community-based-services-hcbs/waiver-programs/intellectual-developmentally-disabled-i-dd/i-dd-waiver-program-modernization>

ii. Rate Study

1. website [KDADS HCBS Rate Study - Home](#) and email KDADSratestudy@pcgus.com
2. Deadline for cost report and time study is 2/28/2025

iii. MFEI Implementation

1. Begins July 1
2. Schedule 2 hours per meeting
3. Copies of the youth and adult tools are available on the IDD Modernization website
4. Documentation requirements: KDADS has since stated that no supporting documentation will be required.
5. New tier structure
 - a. People already in services will be frozen at last BASIS tier until July 1, 2026
 - b. New people entering services July 1st or later will follow the new tier structure determined by MCO
 - i. Tier 1 – \$2.73 Day & \$64.44 Res
 - ii. Tier 2 - \$4.31 Day & \$138.08 Res

- iii. Tier 3 - \$7.25 Day & \$233.30 Res
- iv. EF capped - \$8.79 Day & \$279.54 Res

iv. Unbundling Day Supports

- 1. Targeting summer 2025
- 2. New services
 - a. Retirement and Seniors Day Habilitation
 - b. Community Based Day Habilitation
 - c. Prevocational Services
 - d. Life Skills Services
 - e. Career Exploration and Planning
 - f. Individualized Employment Services
 - g. Benefit Planning Services

v. Conflict Free Case Management

- 1. Two options
 - a. Organizations can provide TCM or HCBS but not both
 - b. Organizations can provide TCM and HCBS but not to the same people
- 2. Must be compliant by July 2029
- 3. Grant funding to expand in underserved areas, come into compliance, or create new independent providers

b. Community Support Waiver

- i. Website - <https://www.kansascsw.com/>
- ii. Targeting summer 2026
- iii. To serve people who do not need 24hr support
- iv. Must be conflict free to be a provider

c. FY 25 KDADS/CDDO contract finalized

- i. State Aid – The CDDO will continue funding those adults previously covered by the State General Funds Grant for Day and Residential. With the increase in funding received this year, the rate paid for Day and Residential per person will be increased from the FY 2011 State General Funds Grant rate to the lowest HCBS rate (currently a Tier 5 rate).

3. Provider Sharing / Announcements – no one had anything to share.

4. Consumer Marketing List is available by contacting Angela Levy-
alevy@cwccddo.org

5. The next meeting will be April 22, 2025 at 2pm and will be reviewing the MFEI assessment tool.

Minutes by Angela Levy

Cottonwood CDDO Affiliate Meeting

**May 6, 2025 – 2pm
Teams**

Present: Angela Levy, Vee Rivera, Colleen Hunter, Jon Tran, Roxanne Hidaka, Erika Swander, Amber Frost, Jeff Whittier, Andrea Pike, Zoe Surprise-Murphy, Constance Wade, Jason Pattison, Lynette Goldizen, Logan Pope, Scott Hedrick, Duane Turnbull, John Dunlap, Caitlyn Hendershott, Susan Davis, Ian Pepin, Corby Lockwood, Rebecca Gurrera, Kathleen Sylvester, Sheri Holmes, Phil Bentzinger, Mark Gonzales, Angie Reinking, Janine Gray, Steve Floyd, Ranita Wilks, Kara Walters, Paula Pratt, Michael Tubbs, Heather Thies, and Hugh Murphy

1. MFEI assessment tool – Angela reviewed the adult version of the MFEI assessment tool, and the documentation requirements currently listed in the MFEI manual. While KDADS has since decided that the only documentation required will be the initial eligibility determination, there is a stakeholder workgroup reviewing and making recommendations regarding documentation requirements, so things could change depending on the outcome of that workgroup review and the MFEI manual needs to be updated. Angela asked everyone to plan on the MFEI meetings taking longer than the BASIS. The pilot average 1.5 – 2 hours per meeting but Angela is hopeful that it can be shorter than that after everyone gets used to the new tool.
2. IDD System Updates
 - a. KDADS/CDDO contract – Negotiations have wrapped up for the FY 2026 contract and KDADS came up with a new CDDO Administration methodology to account for population shift. The new methodology will result in a cut for Cottonwood CDDO of approximately \$40,000.
 - b. HCBS Settings Final Rule – Angela did not have any updates to report.
 - c. IDD Modernization – The workgroups for Conflict of Interest, MFEI implementation, and Day unbundling are on-going but getting close to wrapping up. Lynette provided updates on the Conflict of Interest and MFEI groups.
3. Provider Sharing / Announcements – No updates were shared.
4. Consumer Marketing List is available by contacting Angela Levy-
alevy@cwcdco.org
5. The next meeting will be on July 22nd at 2pm.

Minutes by Angela Levy

Cottonwood CDDO Affiliate Meeting

7/22/2025 – 2pm

Teams

Present: Angela Levy, Cassie Milam, Paula Pratt, Roxanne Hidaka, Heather Thies, Jennifer Star, Ashley Seimears, Sean Swindler, Phil Bentzinger, Colleen Hunter, Nancy Bullock, Sarah Elliott, Laura Solis, Jason Pattison, Janine Gracy, Rayna Goldsmith, Connie Wade, Lynette Goldizen, Susan Davis, Zoe Surprise-Murphy, Logan Pope, Mike Graves, Ruth Ann Arber, Patrick Gardner, Caitlyn Hendershott, Jessica Danon, Robin Shafer, Deb Bowden, Ranita Wilks, Jon Gerdel, Corby Lockwood, Jon Tran, Mark Gonzalez, Hugh Murphy, Stephany Semple, Duane Turnbull

1. Guest Speakers

- a. Sean Swindler & Robin Shafer from Kansas Center for Autism Research & Training regarding research opportunities –

Sean and Robin reviewed upcoming research opportunities for individuals with I/DD and their family members. The research projects include 1) Biobehavioral Research on Autism, seeking individuals ages 8-35 with a diagnosis of Autism and Intellectual Disability and participants are compensated for their time, 2) A clinical trial for Pimavanserin seeking individuals ages 16-40, and 3) Fragile X premutation carriers, seeking parents or grandparents, ages 45 and older, of individuals diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome.

- b. Jessie Danon from Kansas University Medical Center regarding health & wellness opportunities for I/DD -

Jessie shared the research projects, community-based programs, and community outreach opportunities they have available that focus on nutrition and exercise classes, and discovery and innovation regarding Alzheimer's and Down Syndrome. They are currently recruiting individuals 18-35 for the CHEF-ID study and recruiting individuals 18 and older with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome for the BOLD study. Participants are compensated for time and travel. They also offer exercise classes for individuals 13 and older with a diagnosis of ID and the first month is free. KUMC will also come to your provider organization and offer a free exercise class along with a presentation about their programs and research project opportunities.

- c. Corby Lockwood from KDADS regarding AIR policy clarification-

The current AIR management policy defines Emergency Medical Care as **inpatient or outpatient emergency medical services that are necessary to ensure the health and welfare of the participant which require use of the most accessible Medical Facility.**

To determine if an AIR is required for medical services received keep the following helpful tips in mind:

- If the situation warrants immediate (emergency) medical care regardless of what type of medical facility used, an AIR report is required. If the emergency would require a visit to a 24-hour medical facility, then err on the side of caution and make an AIR report.

- If the situation warrants immediate (emergency) medical care and if a walk-in or urgent care clinic was unavailable the individual would have to go to the emergency room, then an AIR report is required.
- If the urgent care/ walk in clinic visit is scheduled to address a minor illness, or to receive immunizations, or any other care that could be performed by a primary care physician then it would not meet the definition of emergency medical care, therefore not require an AIR report.
- If you are unsure, please always default to making an AIR report as they could always be screened out if the incident does not meet the definition.

If you have any questions, please email Corby at CorbyM.Lockwood@ks.gov

2. System Updates

- a. Functional Eligibility & Waitlist Management Policy is out for public comment until August 7th - <https://www.kdads.ks.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/4927/638874665502930000>
- b. Reminder on CDDO transfer process – Many CDDOs will not offer provider choice until a transfer packet has been received from the current CDDO that contains all the necessary contact information. When you become aware of someone interested in moving to a new CDDO area, please let us know. Ensure all current case file documents are uploaded to the consumer documents in BCI for the person. The current CDDO will send a transfer packet to the new CDDO. Once the move date, new address, and new phone number are confirmed the CDDO must be informed to complete the transfer process. Transitions meetings are required for anyone moving into our CDDO area and CDDO QA Analyst Susan Davis must be invited to attend. For anyone moving out of our area to a new CDDO area, please follow the new CDDO's transition procedures.
- c. KDADS/CDDO Contract – This is still in process and waiting on final signatures. For FY 2026, Cottonwood CDDO will be getting a cut of \$17,385 in CDDO Administration funding and a cut of \$47, 114 in State Aid funding.
- d. HCBS Final Settings Rule – no updates
- e. IDD Modernization – the July 31st @ 4:30pm webinar will feature Liberty Healthcare and Maximus replacing the AAAs for the Aging & Disability Resource Center contract and HCBS assessing entity contract. For IDD Modernization workgroup members, KDADS will be hosting a debriefing meeting in early August regarding workgroup recommendations. Keep up to date on initiatives and webinars by visiting the IDD modernization website - <https://www.kdads.ks.gov/services-programs/long-term-services-supports/home-and-community-based-services-hcbs/waiver-programs/intellectual-developmentally-disabled-i-dd/i-dd-waiver-program-modernization>
 - i. MFEI – Meeting times have been averaging about an hour and 15 minutes.

1. If someone's Medicaid/HCBS case has been closed at the time of their annual re-assessment and they are actively working on getting re-instated, you need to notify the CDDO assessor **prior** to the MFEI meeting. KAMIS will not allow us to create an annual MFEI for someone not coded for the IDD Waiver, so we will need to submit a request for a special re-evaluation to KDADS, and they will need to approve it in KAMIS prior to being able to create the assessment.
2. KDADS made changes to the reports available in KAMIS so we can no longer import the assessment data into our system. Instead, CDDO assessors are uploading a PDF of the completed MFEI to the consumer's case file in BCI. Our IT department will be working on updating the document names in BCI from BASIS to Functional Assessment.
 - ii. Unbundling Day & Res – no updates
 - iii. TCM/CDDO Conflict of Interest – no updates
 - iv. Community Support Waiver – Draft versions of Appendix F Participant Rights and Appendix H system improvements are available for public comment on the CSW website - <https://www.kansascsw.com/preview-the-csw> If you want to review the service options and definitions, use this link <https://www.kansascsw.com/services>
3. Provider Sharing / Announcements – There was a question about the new KDHE reconsideration policy and no longer back-dating approvals when there is a gap in coverage due to a late review or missing information. The policy memo will be attached with the meeting minutes, but here are the specifics -

HCBS and PACE/HCBS recipients discontinued for failure to return their review or requested information may be retroactively approved back to the date of discontinuance, so long as the criteria below is met. Failure to meet any of the criteria below shall result in HCBS coverage ineligibility and coverage determined under other programs.

- a) **PRIOR MEDICAL REQUEST REQUIREMENTS** As specified in section III.A above, individuals discontinued at review for failure to return their review form who return their review form during the review reconsideration period, must request prior medical coverage to have eligibility determined. However, if the individual did timely submit their review but were later discontinued during review processing for failure to provide requested verifications, staff are to assume the individual is requesting prior medical coverage. Once staff determine that a prior medical coverage determination is needed, the requirements below must also be met before coverage can be approved.
- b) **FINANCIALLY AND NON-FINANCIALLY ELIGIBLE** The individual must continue to meet all financial and non-financial eligibility criteria, such as state residency, disability criteria, meet income and resource guidelines. This includes obtaining the ES-3159 to agree to any established client obligations greater than zero.
- c) **MEET FUNCTIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** Individuals enrolled in an HCBS waiver program must continue to meet the HCBS level of care requirements, which is determined by KDADS, to continue receiving coverage for the HCBS waiver. Although review forms or missing verifications received during the

review reconsideration period are treated as an application, it is not necessary to obtain updated copies of the completed waiver assessment or provisional plan of care (PPOC)/Person Centered Service Plan (PCSP) when reinstating these individuals, so long as the individual was not discontinued from the HCBS waiver by KDADS. This means that an individual's HCBS or PACE/HCBS coverage cannot be reauthorized if they were previously found by KDADS or the assessing entity to not meet the functional criteria prior to coverage being discontinued for failure to return their review or requested information.

There was also a question about the "One Big Beautiful Bill" on Medicaid in Kansas. Corby shared the following information -

Congress has passed the budget reconciliation package ("One Big Beautiful Bill Act") and it is on its way to the President's desk for signature. Read the latest [bill text](#). The reconciliation package includes provisions to reduce Medicaid spending. These include (but are not limited to):

- **New HCBS waiver option:** Effective July 1, 2028, creates new 1915(c) waiver option that does not require participants to meet an institutional level of care.
- **Community engagement requirements:**
 - Adds community engagement requirements (i.e. work requirements) for Medicaid recipients beginning in early 2027
 - Requires the state to verify compliance with work requirements during regularly scheduled eligibility determinations
 - Requires the state to use ex parte processes to verify compliance.
 - Allows the state to request a good-faith effort determination to delay implementation by up to two years
 - Excludes children, adults 65+, individuals considered "medically frail," and parents/caregivers of children 13 and under or dependents with a disability
- **Provider taxes:**
 - Freezes current levels for both expansion and non-expansion states.
 - Beginning in 2028, reduces hold harmless threshold for expansion states by 0.5% every year over 5 years until it reaches 3.5%
- **Rule recissions:**
 - Places a 10-year moratorium on recent eligibility and enrollment rules
 - Places a moratorium on minimum staffing requirements in the long-term care (LTC) facility staffing rule
 - *Note:* The requirement for the state to report on payment transparency in LTC facilities are not included in the moratorium.
- **Eligibility verifications:** Requires states to conduct more frequent eligibility verifications for the expansion population (every 6 months)
- **Immigrant coverage policies:**
 - Eliminates various populations of immigrants from Medicaid eligibility, enacts 10% expansion federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) penalty for using state-only dollars to provide comprehensive coverage or benefits, and sets emergency Medicaid FMAP at the state's base FMAP level.
 - *Note:* Previous language that would have prohibited federal financial participation (FFP) for individuals whose immigration status had not yet been determined was removed.

Corby also shared video of the Bob Bethell KanCare Oversight Committee - 7/15/25:
[Robert G. Bethell Joint Committee on Home & Community Based Services & KanCare Oversight 07/15/2025](#)

4. The Consumer Marketing List is available by contacting Angela Levy-
alevy@cwcdco.org
5. The next meeting will be on October 28th at 2pm by Teams. If you have suggestions for guest speakers, please send those to Angela.

The meeting adjourned at 3pm.
Minutes by Angela Levy

Cottonwood CDDO Affiliate Meeting

10/28/2025 – 2pm

Teams

Present: Angela Levy, Lynette Goldizen, Heather Thies, Nancy Bullock, Mike Graber, Jon Gerdel, Colleen Hunter, Jason Pattison, Andrea Pike, Rebecca Guerera, Ben Layton, Amber Frost, Caitlyn Hendershott, Mark Gonzalez, Jeff Whittier, Susan Davis, Bryan Woerner, Phil Bentzinger, Colleen Himmelberg, Kara Walters, Zoe Surprise-Murphy, Jessica Wood, Jennifer Star, Pam Ducklow, Hugh Murphy, Jon Tran, Janine Gracy, Logan Pope, Kyle George, Jill Dudley, Nicole Brown, Sarah Elliott, Michael Tubbs, Mike Graves, Paula Pratt, Dave Skinner, Laura Solis, Connie Wade

1. Guest Speaker – Cottonwood IT Developer Ben Layton on our replacement for BCI, the Consumer Database Portal (CDP)
 - a. Roll-Out Plan for the new CDP Website - 10/30 at 5:00PM all affiliate BCI accounts will be deactivated. 10/31 will be final “catch-up” migration of documents. 10/31 - 11/2 account invitation emails will be sent out to existing BCI users.
 - b. There is also a new CDP Account Request Form located on the CDDO website's Forms section - <https://www.cwcddo.org/index.php/cddo-forms/> This request form is to be completed for any new staff accounts or to terminate existing staff accounts. Everyone with an existing BCI account will automatically be sent CDP invitation emails and do not need to fill out a request form for an account.
 - c. Invitation emails will come from DoNotReply@mail.cwood.org (please check your Junk Mail if you do not receive it)
 - d. Demonstration of new website – Ben provided a demonstration of the new CDP website and showed how to search for consumer documents, upload consumer documents, fill out quality oversight visit forms, and check the consumer's services section.
 - e. As with anything new, there may be some glitches so please email Angela or Ben blayton@cwood.org if anything comes up.
2. System Updates
 - a. Wait List Offers – KDADS sent 290 offers to come off the wait list, 204 were accepted, 14 declined, and 1 person who accepted was determined functionally ineligible with the MFEI. For our CDDO area, there were 5 offers sent, 3 accepted, and 2 declined.

- b. Community Support Waiver – The public comment period will be late December/early January and there will be in person and virtual meeting opportunities. KDADS plans to submit to the new Waiver to CMS by February/March with expected implementation by September 2026. KDADS will be sending out a series of informational letters to consumers on the IDD Waiver and waiting list about the Community Support Waiver. The first letter will be a very basic introductory letter with a reference to check out the CSW website - <https://www.kansascsw.com/>

- c. KDADS/CDDO Contract

- i. Agreement was reached on FY 26 and CDDOs are preparing for FY 27 negotiations.
 - ii. Capacity Assessment – This will be due at the end of March 2026 and our local Council of Community Members will work on completing this at their January meeting.

- iii. Workgroups

- 1. CDDO Operations – This group is meeting once a month. Discussion items have included consistency of KAMIS data, CDDO Administration reporting, tracking MFEI ineligibles this first year, standardizing the CDDO Affiliate Agreement, and CSW responsibilities. Since switching from BASIS to MFEI in July, our CDDO area has had one individual go from eligible to ineligible (but later found eligible per the back-up BASIS) and two individuals go from ineligible to eligible.
 - 2. Eligibility – no updates
 - 3. Functional Assessment – no updates
 - 4. Quality Assurance – Susan Davis provided an overview of this work group, which is currently focused on CDDO QA activities for the Community Support Waiver and not duplication of work/reviews by KDADS/MCOs/CDDOs.
 - 5. Complex Needs – no updates

- 3. Provider Sharing / Announcements –

- a. Angela asked if anyone had any recommendations for therapy/counseling services for individuals with IDD. Zoe recommended Mind and Body Healing Collective in Lawrence - <https://mbhealingcollective.org/>

- b. Angela also shared that this will be her last Affiliate Meeting, as she will be retiring January 5th. Cottonwood CEO Colleen Himmelberg is in process of interviewing for a new Director of CDDO Administration.
- 4. Consumer Marketing List is available by contacting Angela Levy-
alevy@cwcdco.org
- 5. Next Meeting will be January 27th at 2pm by Teams; Guest speaker will be Bridget Dixon Bert Nash SED Waiver

Minutes by Angela Levy