ARPA HCBS Funding: Health and Welfare Opportunities

December 8, 2021
Background: HCBS Health and Welfare

CMS/ACL/OIG released a report on HCBS health and welfare that found:

- Ensuring all critical incidents are reported
- Properly recording all reported incidents
- Ensuring incidents were reported at the correct severity level
- Collecting and reviewing all data on critical incidents
- Ensuring all reasonable suspicions of abuse or neglect were reported

The report listed four key components of health and safety in HCBS:

- Reliable incident management and investigation processes
- Audit protocols that ensure compliance with reporting, review, and response requirements
- Effective mortality reviews of unexpected deaths
- Quality assurance mechanisms that ensure the delivery and fiscal integrity of appropriate community-based services.
Background: ARPA and HCBS

ARPA HCBS Funding

- 10% increase to HCBS FMAP (federal share of Medicaid)
- States must use increased funds to enhance/strengthen HCBS
- CMS required states to submit spending plans describing how the funding will be used

Current Status

- 51 plans submitted (50 states + DC)
- 41 states with “partial approval”
- 7 states with “conditional approval”
- 3 states with request for more information
Summary of Plans

• Compilation of all plans:

• Analysis of plans available at:
Summary of Plans

Spending Plan Initiatives

- Caregiver Supports
- Home Modifications
- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Health
- Additional waiver “slots”
- Provider rate increases
- Provider bonuses
- Rate study

Number of States
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Number of States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provider training/certification</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment/retention bonuses</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telehealth improvements</td>
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<td>LTSS EHRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and welfare technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral health initiatives</td>
<td>20</td>
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Health and Welfare in ARPA HCBS Plans (examples)

- Invest in improvements and upgrades to Delaware’s critical incident management information technology system (DE)
- Additional training and support for adult protective service workers and cross-training of all staff in adult protective service (KY)
- Implement an online reporting system for incidents that can make sure all necessary parties for assessment, investigation and response are notified and have the same information (WV)
- Modernize its platform for service planning, provider management, and critical incident reporting (WY)
Adult Protective Services

• Unlike CPS, no dedicated federal funding
• Sole federal $ come from SSBG or OAA
• ACL role:
  – Federal home for APS
  – National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System
  – Voluntary Consensus Guidelines
ARPA: Historic Investments in APS

• $86M awarded to states in 8/2021
  – States required to submit Initial Spend Plan
  – States required to create 3-5 year Operational Plan by 1/31/22

• APS Technical Assistance Resource Center
  – Currently providing intensive TA to states

• Additional $100M available in FY 2022
40 Plans: Common Priorities

- Services for clients
- Technology investments incl. equipment
- Training
- Staffing
- Contract expertise
Services for Clients

- Emergency/Temporary **Housing** (greatest need)
- Utility, rent assistance, minor home repair
- Deep cleaning, pest eradication, moving assistance
- Domestic goods, clothing, and provisions
- Food, medications, DME, transportation
- In-home care, respite, transition of care support
- Case management, mental health services
- Legal services, guardianship
Technology

• Enhance current case management system
  – Incl. creating common assessment tool online
  – Incl. a structure decision-making tool online
• Create/improve online reporting
• Data & program analytics; improve NAMRS reporting
• Support remote work; IT support for staff
• Improve interoperability between other state agencies
• Common portal to connect with stakeholders (e.g. financial)
• Develop mobile applications; update website
Training

• Create/update standardized curriculum for existing staff, recently hired staff, supervisors; update manuals
  – Make curriculum available online on-demand
• Specialized training: financial exploitation, diversity & equity, dementia, evidence collection, supported decision-making, person-centered planning, capacity, undue influence
• Send staff to NAPSA conference, provide statewide & regional conferences; NAPSA certification for staff
• Train community partners, law enforcement, mandated reporters, cross-train state agency staff
Staffing

- Hire temporary staff: staff trainer, community outreach trainer, project manager, grant writer, data specialist, support for closing older cases, QA, admin support
- Retention bonuses, hazard pay, overtime, raises
- Support regional staff meetings; pay for notary services
- Stipends to college students who commit to the field
- For service plan follow-up; support intake process
- To review regulations, statutes
Contract Expertise

• ACL requested states dedicate money to create Operational Plan, majority hiring consultants to do so
• Other expertise needed: draft regulations, develop training curriculum, revise structured decision-making tool, data analytics, NAMRS data compliance
• Forensic accounting
• Capacity/psychiatric assessments
• Creation of MDTs
Notable Others

- QA activities
- Tribal partnerships
- Multi-Disciplinary Team expansion
- Direct support to county APS
- Vehicles
- PPE
Opportunities

• To better connect Medicaid, Aging Services and APS:
  – 3-5 year Operational Plan (be involved)
  – Interoperability of technology
  – Services
  – Cross-training of staff
Takeaways

• There remains a disconnect between APS and Medicaid Health & Welfare processes
• State H&W infrastructure development focuses on the IT systems
• Opportunities exist to both enhance APS and strengthen HCBS health and welfare
• Formal engagement and agreements regarding collaboration, roles, & responsibilities an important first step
Leadership, innovation, collaboration for state Aging and Disability agencies

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