



# Member Forum

July 22, 2022

## **Welcome**

- Debbie Bennett, President & CEO, Hillcroft Services, Inc.

## **Today's Agenda**

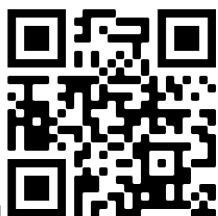
- MED Works Program Overview
  - Nonis Spinner, Department Director, FSSA
  - Brian Gilbert, Program Administration Manager, FSSA
- VR Updates
  - Theresa Koleszar, Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Industry Update
  - John Barth, Katy Stafford-Cunningham, Brian Carnes, and Courtney Scott, INARF

## Professional Interest Section Meetings / Professional Development:

- July 26 & 29 - Person-Centered Individualized Support Plan Facilitator Training
- July 28 - Community Supports (10 AM-Noon) / Employment Supports (12:30-2:30 PM)
- August 11 - Financial Management (10 AM-Noon) / Human Resources (12:30-2:30 PM)
- August 18 - Child and Family Services (10 AM-Noon)
- August 30 - Professional Development Opportunity: Balancing the Work-Life Equation

## Upcoming Member Forum and Board of Directors Meetings:

- August 26 - INARF PAC Legislative Reception, Member Forum and Board of Directors Meeting
- September 23 - Board of Directors Meeting
- October 28 - Member Forum and Board of Directors Meeting



Registration opens 3 weeks in advance. To register for open events, scan the QR code or go to <https://web.inarf.org/events>



Register today by scanning the QR code or visit  
[www.inarf.org/2022\\_annual\\_conference.html](http://www.inarf.org/2022_annual_conference.html)



# **MED Works Program Overview**

Nonis Spinner, FSSA, Department Director

Brian Gilbert, FSSA, Program Administration Manager

# MEDWorks

*A look at Indiana's Medicaid Buy-In Program*



# What is MEDWorks

A federal law known as the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TWWIA) added optional Medicaid coverage which was designed to remove barriers to employment for persons with disabilities by providing access to health care.

Effective July 1, 2002, Indiana's Medicaid Program was expanded to cover these categories with the enactment of P.L. 287-2001.



# What is MEDWorks

- Sometimes referred to as the Medicaid Buy-In Program (IC 12-15-41)
- Medicaid For Employees with Disabilities
- Allows individuals to work without losing Medicaid coverage, or disabled working individuals to newly apply for and receive Medicaid (if all eligibility criteria met)
- About 2,900 members
  - 1/5 served in Hoosier Care Connect
  - 4/5 served in Fee-for-Service (primarily due to dual eligibility to Medicaid and Medicare)





# MEDWorks Features

- Higher income threshold for eligibility and coverage maintenance
- Same coverage as regular Medicaid
- Able to save money for retirement, as well as certain work and education goals
- Pay a sliding scale premium based on monthly income
- Can maintain coverage for 12 months following involuntary termination of employment as long as “connection to the workforce” is maintained through participation in various allowed employment programs/services as listed in IC 12-15-41-6



# MEDWorks Eligibility

- Medicaid eligible
- Between the ages of 16-64
- Have a disability approval, application, or appeal with the Social Security Administration
  - If waiting on SSA, FSSA's Medical Review Team (MRT) can make a provisional decision of disability until SSA's final approval or denial determination is made
- Be working
  - Must notify DFR
- Income between 100% and 350% FPL



# Not Included in Eligibility Determination

Excluded income:

- Tax refunds
- Grants or scholarships allowed by federal law
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE's), and
- Income of your spouse or parents

Note: Spouse income is added back in when calculating the amount of premium to be charged. If both spouses are eligible for M.E.D.Works, then their premium will be shared.



# Not Included in Eligibility Determination

## Excluded Assets:

- One car of any value
- The home you live in
- Burial spaces
- Retirement savings held by you or, if you are married, your spouse
- Funds in an approved Independence and Self-Sufficiency Account



# Savings of Independence & Self Sufficiency Account

- Can save up to \$20,000
- Must explain what money will be used for
  - Something necessary to keep or increase employment
  - Expected purchase date
  - Can achieve in a reasonable amount of time

Form can be accessed at

<https://www.in.gov/fssa/forms.in.gov/> and submitted to the Division of Family Resources

- Form 50929 - MED Works Request for Independence and Self-Sufficiency Account



# Federal Poverty Levels

The countable income limit for M.E.D.Works is 350% FPL

- For 2022, 350% FPL is \$3,963 per month
- Individuals with income under 150% FPL (for 2022, \$1,698 per month) do not have to pay premiums in M.E.D.Works

Disabled working individuals with total income under 100% FPL (for 2022, \$1,132 per month) can be eligible for regular disability Medicaid even if some of their income is earned



# MEDWorks Premiums

Family Size	% FPL	Monthly Premium
Single	150% to 175%	\$48
	175% to 200%	\$69
	200% to 250%	\$107
	250% to 300%	\$134
	300% to 350%	\$161
	Over 350%	\$187
Married (only when both spouses in M.E.D.Works)	150% to 175%	\$65
	175% to 200%	\$93
	200% to 250%	\$145
	250% to 300%	\$182
	300% to 350%	\$218
	Over 350%	\$254

*Most M.E.D.Works members pay \$107 or less a month in premiums*



# Medicaid & Employment

*Involvement in Employment Incentives*





# Employment Activities

- DDRS
  - Employment Services Restructuring
- Vocational Rehabilitation & DMHA
  - Project Voice
  - ASPIRE Project
    - IPS for Supported Employment
    - Braiding of MRO & VR funding



# Contact Information

## Contact Us

Carol Sutton – Hoosier Care Connect Manager

[carol.sutton@fssa.in.gov](mailto:carol.sutton@fssa.in.gov)

Brian Gilbert – Program Administration Manager

[brian.gilbert@fssa.in.gov](mailto:brian.gilbert@fssa.in.gov)





## **VR Updates**

Theresa Koleszar, Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

# Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Update

INARF Member Forum  
July 22, 2022



# Employment Data

Performance Year (PY 21 = SFY22)	# Participants Exiting VR with employment	Average Hourly Wage
PY21	1572	\$13.29
PY20	1200	\$12.29
PY19	1470	\$12.35
PY18	1804	\$11.44



# Order of Selection Update

- As of July 1, 2237 on wait list
  - 48% (1077) in priority category 2
  - 52% (1160) in priority category 3
  - 415 of these individuals new to wait list in SFY22
- 1,668 released from wait list to date (most recent release July 2022)
- 90% eligible individuals are in priority category 1, with 10% assigned to waitlist (average over last 16 months)



# VR Discovery Services Cohort

## Discovery Cohort

- Representatives from VR employment providers and VR staff met during Jan 2021-April 2022
- Several Recommendations
  - Touch-base points with team
  - Remote service delivery best practices
  - Intentional discovery (4 hours/week; complete in 6 weeks)
  - Considerations for specific populations
  - Documentation best practices and suggested revisions
  - Recommended tools, e.g., discovery v. JRT; Discovery myths



## Other Updates

- VR Employment Services Provider Training Needs Assessment conducted in June
- Quarterly Provider Capacity Survey ongoing
  - Interest in a presentation at a future meeting?
- NEW VR Employment Service Provider Directory
- Adding 13 new VR staff positions (9 Counselors and 4 Case Coordinators)
- Benefits Counseling enhancements
  - Benefits Review and Education
  - Personalized Benefits Counseling







## Industry Update

John Barth, Katy Stafford-Cunningham, Brian Carnes, and  
Courtney Scott, INARF

INARF team members visited  
Tangram President & CEO  
Sam Criss and executive team



### INARF Held our Quarterly Meeting with Dr. Rusyniak on 7/21/22:

- Medicaid Budget Planning for the Biennium During an Uncertain Period: MLTSS RFP Implementation and DSP/DSW Impact, Ensuring Rate Increase Parity
- INARF Member Feedback on the DSW Planning
- Routine Rate Review Process
- INARF Planning for 2023 Legislative Session

## Indiana Releases MLTSS RFP:

- Released by the IDOA on behalf of the FSSA on June 30, 2022.
- FSSA is seeking three managed care organizations that will serve an estimated 106,000 enrollees, beginning January 1, 2024, for a period of four years, with two one-year renewal options.
- Eligibility:
  - The population for this program is individuals 60 and older who are eligible for Medicaid on the basis of age, blindness, or disability and have limited income and resources.
  - All members aged 60 and older in the target eligibility categories will be included unless the individual meets an exclusion.
  - Exclusions include: DDRS Waiver Recipients, Anyone under 60 years of age on the A&D waiver, and ICF/IDD residents.

## Innovation Pilot Project Grants (open):

- Designed for providers, community partners, and self-advocates who are interested in engaging in novel efforts and approaches in the next 18-24 months to inform HCBS waiver redesign.
- Funding available: Up to \$50,000 for Phase 1 (Development of comprehensive proposal); Phase 2 grants will be awarded dependent upon project need and scope
  - Phase 1 Application Period: June 17, 2022- Sept. 30, 2022
  - Phase 2 Application Period: July 15, 2022- Dec. 31, 2022
  - Innovation Pilot Projects can run from July 15, 2022- March 31, 2024

### Leadership Network on Employment Innovation Grants (closed):

- The Leadership Network will operate for two years and is designed to support a group of 10 providers who have recently transitioned away from billing Sheltered Work prevocational services.
- Participating providers will receive \$50,000 per year (for a total of \$100,000 over two years) to support dedication of key staff and organizational resources to robust participation in the Leadership Network.
- The Leadership Network supports DDRS' goal to increase individual competitive integrated employment jobs reported in the Day and Employment Services Outcome System report from 23% to 38% by 2027

## Open Futures Learning Grant:

- A new learning opportunity for home-and community-based services Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver and Family Supports Waiver providers and their direct support professionals
- Training modules from Open Future Learning are meant to assist providers and DSPs in building knowledge and skills by exploring a variety of ways to support and address areas of outstanding need among Hoosiers receiving HCBS services.
- BDDS currently has the ability to offer subscriptions and DSP stipends through March 2024, or until all available subscriptions have been granted
- <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/files/Open-Future-Learning-FAQ.pdf>

## 988 Go Live

- New national three-digit dialing code (988) to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- In the coming years, that service will be expanded to include a response team and locations where people can go for help
- The work to develop this complete system is well underway and will continue over the next seven to 10 years
- More information about [Indiana's work to implement 988 can be found here.](#)
- DMHA Director will attend August INARF Member Forum to discuss 988 go-live



## FSSA DSW Initiative Status and INARF Feedback

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- During our June Forum, Peggy Welch, FSSA Chief Advocacy Officer, along with Courtney Medlock and Hannah Maxey from the Bowen Center, presented an overview of the DSW Initiative.
- Immediately following, the Board discussed the presentation and developed feedback to share with the Bowen Center. This feedback includes:
  - Urging planners to ensure that proposed strategies recognize any needed changes to existing FSSA policies, administrative rules, and Indiana Code to ensure alignment in implementation
  - Encouraging planners to be mindful of previous attempts to make improvements for the DSW function and to build on the knowledge and experiences developed in those efforts.
  - It was pointed out that the success of any plan will rely on implementation and must be accessible and realistic for all providers. The best way to develop a plan this is successful is to involve providers directly to provide operational and implementation guidance
- The Bowen Center is developing a workgroup meeting scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>.

# DDRS Waiver Redesign Webinar and Innovation Grant

- Cathy Robinson briefly discussed the [Initial Concept Paper](#) that was sent to stakeholders in 2020.
- The [DDRS Quality Guide for Case Managers and Case Management Organizations](#) was referenced an area of priority that they have taken steps to improve through quality and outcomes.
- When DDRS surveyed stakeholders the most common priorities were stabilization, workforce, enhance HCBS, build provider capacity, and caregiver training and support.
- The Path Forward: Vision for System Transformation
  - The waiver redesign will be discussed along with sharing feedback received on self-direction
  - It is intended for stakeholders to follow along with what DDRS is proposing over the next two years.
  - There is a subcommittee on the 1102 taskforce dealing with waiver redesign that will be sending recommendations to the full taskforce.

# DDRS Waiver Redesign Webinar and Innovation Grant

- DDRS highlighted the [Innovation Pilot Project Guide](#) for the Innovation Grant opportunity
- This pilot offers the opportunity to:
  - Demonstrate new service models that could be expanded and adopted more broadly
  - Build private/public partnerships to expand opportunity for employment and community engagement among those receiving BDDS services
  - Generally, explore ways of improving the lives of Hoosiers with IDD
- Some recommendations were made during the webinar regarding employment models, supporting individuals residentially, programs focused on children, and programs around dual-diagnosis care.
- During the Q&A portion, many individuals asked if their ideas would be accepted, those included:
  - Spanish speaking programs
  - Water safety and swimming
  - Piloting different transports such as Uber and Lyft

The 1102 Task Force has been charged, through HEA 1075, to make recommendations by September 1, 2022, to the legislative council as:

### DSP Curriculum and Training

- Establishment of a statewide training curriculum for individuals who provide services to individuals with I/DD
- Feasibility of establishing training certification;
- Establishment of a statewide training registry;
- Feasibility of a pilot project to implement any recommendations made


### Waiver Trends and Support

- Current trends related to health and safety requests for the community integration habilitation Medicaid waiver or any other service; and
- The feasibility of the division establishing a pilot program to create special service review teams to assist families or individuals in a crisis situation to identify available resources and sources of assistance

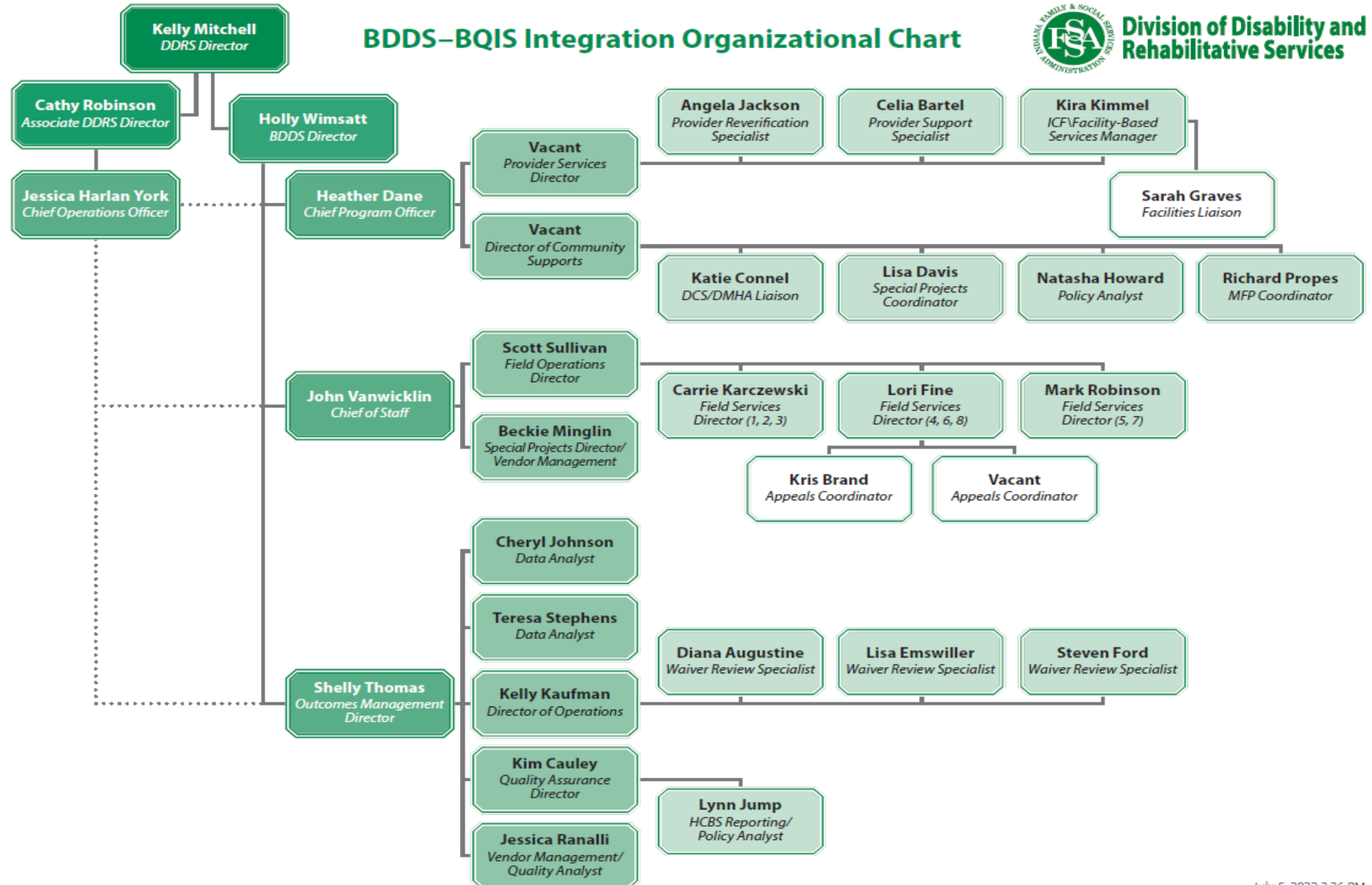
### Incident Report

- Creation of a report to be distributed by BDDS to each authorized service provider; and
- To provide to the authorized service provider the name of each direct support professional who has been the subject of a substantiated incident report

## Subcommittee Overview

- The committees are to be comprised of individuals, family members, association members, elected officials, state employees, providers, and other external stakeholders who have lived experience and/or knowledge in the topic area.
  - Committee chairs and facilitators have been assigned by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to provide support and leadership. A member of the Task Force will participate on each committee.
  - Committees are scheduling next meetings to further discussion on their respective topics. Committees are expected to submit their recommendations by August 16, 2022.
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# BDDS/BQIS Organizational Structure



## Thank You to our PAC Contributors!

Rick Adams

Jim Allbaugh

John Barth

Debbie Bennett

Patrick Cockrum

David Dreith

Donna Elbrecht

Nanette Hagedorn

Jim Hammond

Matt Harrington

Kelly Hartman

Stan Keepes

Connie Kurtz

Jason Meyer

Chris Nabors

Jodi Neighbors

Kathleen Parks

Georgia Pomrenke

Colleen Renie

Kenneth Rose

Neil Samahon

Kelly Schneider

Melissa Sharp

Jim Sinclair

Katy Stafford-Cunningham

Pam Verbarg

Kelli Waggoner

Grant Waggoner

Melissa Walden

Allison Wharry

Barb Young





Join us August 26 at 9 AM for an  
INARF PAC Legislative Reception honoring the  
INARF 2022 Legislator of the Year

**The Honorable Gregory Porter**

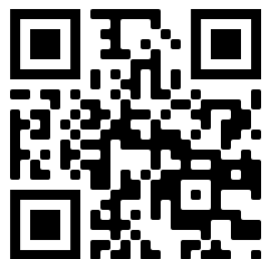


In addition, Indiana House Ways and Means Members have been invited to come and speak with Members on the issues impacting our industry ahead of the budget Session.

The event will be held at  
Hampton Inn by Hilton Indianapolis Canal IUPUI, Indianapolis

*This event is open to INARF PAC Contributors and Event Sponsors only*

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Thank you!

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