COLORADO
Department of Education

Facility Schools Model Work Group Meeting Notes
December 6, 2023, 9:00 - 10:25 AM Virtual - Zoom Meeting

Work Group Members Present: Sarah Baumgartner, Michele Craig, Wendy Dunaway, Mylynda Herrick,Sonjia Hunt, David Molineux, Erin Osterhaus, Betsy Peffer, Steven Ramirez, Robin Singer, Judy Stirman, Ann Symalla, Barb Taylor, Laura Writebol

Work Group Members Absent: Laurie Burney, Kari Chapman, Danny Combs, Sandy Malouff, Deon Roberts, Lindsey Tapp, Kevin Tracy, Callan Ware, Cate White, Maureen Welch

Guest Observers: Lori Kochevar, Jenna Zerylnick, Becky Miller-Updike (CAFCA), Shannon Huska (HCPF), Olga Gintchin (HCPF)

Facilitator & Support: Virginia (G) Winter, Equinox Consultancy LLC, Darren Serrato

Analysis Team: Nick Stellitano – Dillinger Research & Applied Data

Public Comment: no public comment

1. Work Group images of success
● In November the Work Group was asked what success under their charter would result in, or look like. Work Group members reviewed the synthesis of those images and definitions. This will be used as a measure of Work Group achievement going forward.

2. SB23-219 implementation updates
● Work Group members discussed data shared by Dillinger RAD
● Shared Operational Services grantee introduction to the work group. Later in the meeting Becky Miller-Updike (CAFCA) provided an outline of how the work on this Grant will get underway.

3. Deeper Data Dives
● Work Group members discussed data collection for waitlists, and multi-site agencies - and asked 'what questions do we want data to answer'? Members affirmed that exploration of the uniquenesses of multi-site Facility School was a topic of interest.

4. Medicaid Reimbursement - continual learning
● Guests from HCPF provided further information regarding Medicaid and School-based Services. Materials prepared by HCPF and the Question and Answer document will be accessed again in January for further conversation.

5. Rulemaking update
● Work Group members received an update of the calendar and timeline for rulemaking activities affecting facility schools in general and specific to SB 23-219.

6. Work Group Design Thinking - a review
● The facilitator reviewed the actions that pertain to the Design Thinking model, a tool for 'solving' complex challenges, which was utilized in the past for generating recommendations and can be used in the future.

Next Steps - Reminder of upcoming Work Group meetings:
● Next meeting dates:Thursday, January 18
   ○ Thursday, February 1

- Friday, March 1
- Friday, April 5
- Thursday, May 2
- Thursday, June 6

SB 23-219 Facility Schools Work Group

December 6, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Greetings Facility Schools Work Group Members and Guest Observers

A few notes prior to the meeting starting:

- **Work Group Members please have your camera on and relevant documents available at the beginning of the meeting.**

- **If you are a guest observer to our meeting and would like to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting, please submit your name, group or entity you are representing, and public comment topic in an email to:** *Darren Serrato Serrato_D@cde.state.co.us*

- ***Note: we request that this is done 24 hours before scheduled meeting times.***

- **The Work Group has allocated time for public comment near the beginning of each meeting. Reference the Agenda, the exact time varies slightly.**

- **The guidelines for the public comment include: 3 minutes per person, with a maximum of 5 people (or 15 minutes total) allowed.**

- **If you are a guest/observer you will be asked to state your name and affiliation at the beginning of the Work Group meeting**

Facility Schools Work Group Guidelines for Interaction, Deliberation and Collaboration
Amended and recertified using consensus decision making - August 24, 2023

- Be open minded; Avoid bringing any hidden agendas to the table.
- Not afraid to express your opinion.
- Listen to understand, not respond.
- Don't be afraid of change. Expect changes.
- Stay mission-focused; being transparent in why we're here.
- Tap into the variety of perspectives and expertise while being respectful of different points of view
- Full understanding of purpose.
- Challenge ourselves to be innovative.
- Consistent attendance, participation, and engagement.
- Focus and stay on track with the agenda and tasks at hand.

- Create a safe environment to discuss disagreements.
- What is the common denominator we go away with? (i.e. Can we agree on a global fix?)
- Allow all voices to be heard
- Focus on the kids. Keep it kid-focused. Kids and family-focused.
- Patience with opposing viewpoints and creative thinking.
- Come to the meeting prepared; adhere to timelines.
- Allow folks that are speaking to finish their comments without interruption.
- Assume positive intention.
- Respect voices for representing constituencies. (Appreciate that members may serve as liaisons to a constituency).
- Good access to materials. Maintain the Google drive with the background information which will help us and aid transparency.
- Critique ideas, not people.

Overview of Today's Agenda Topics

1) **Revisit the images of success for the Work Group, synthesis from November.**

2) **SB 23-219 Implementation updates. Welcome our Shared Operational Services grantee.**

3) **Discuss WG Input on Deeper Data Dives. What you said -**
   (a) Time on waitlists, no waitlists, are kids on waitlists at multiple FS
   (b) Uniquenesses of multi-site Facility School corporations or agencies

4) **Continual Learning: Medicaid Reimbursement - John, Michele, Shannon, Olga**

5) **Rulemaking mini update**

6) **Sustaining WG Skills: "Design Thinking" in review**

Work Group Purpose

The Facility Schools Work Group shall monitor the implementation of changes to the facility school system and educational services for students with exceptionally severe or specialized needs. The Facility Schools Work Group's role is to advise the State.

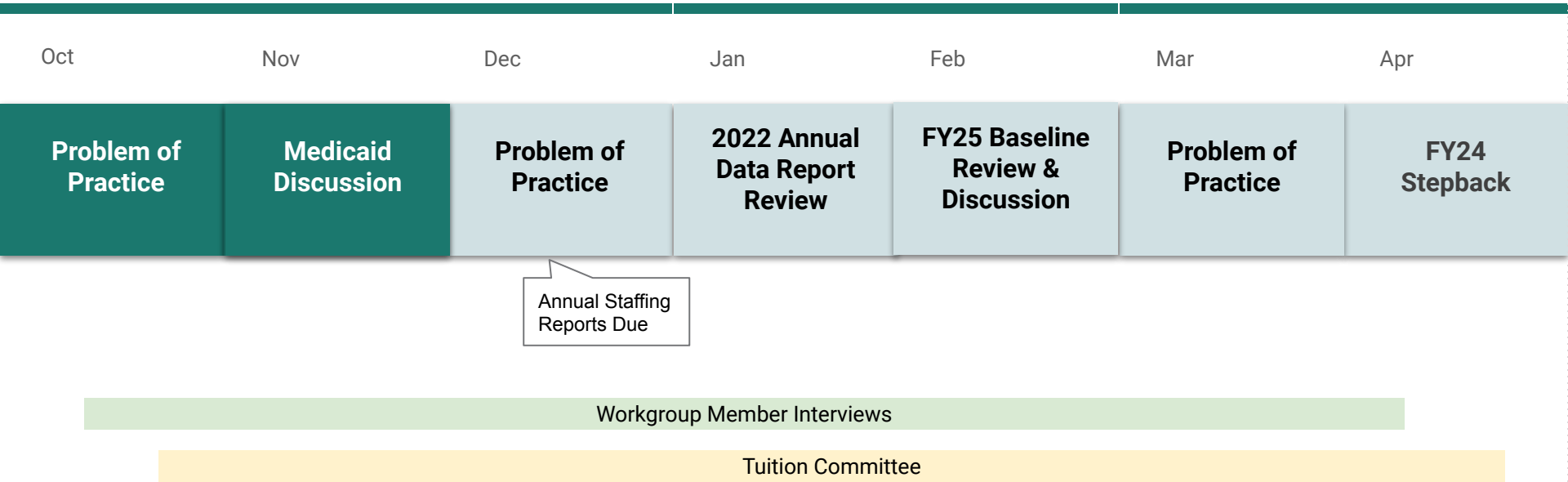*What does success look like?!?   Drum roll...Here's what the you said!*

Success is ensuring that we're on track to having an appropriate facility School spot for most (or all!) of our Colorado young people that need them and the facility schools serving them feel supported in that.

Doing everything that we can do within our capacity as a Workgroup to increase capacity in current facility schools, add new schools to ensure that all students that need services have a place to be.

Monitoring & Implementation Key Events -

Oct 2023 through Apr 2024

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Problem of Practice	**Medicaid Discussion**	**Problem of Practice**	**2022 Annual Data Report Review**	**FY25 Baseline Review & Discussion**	**Problem of Practice**	**FY24 Stepback**

Annual Staffing Reports Due

Workgroup Member Interviews

Tuition Committee

Implementation Dashboard

Data Collection

Action	Status
Meetings with Facility Schools	Complete
Collecting all Baseline Data from Facility Schools	In Progress
Updated Monthly Enrollment Report	Complete
Analysis of Monthly Data	In Progress

Baseline Funding Model

Action	Status
Enrollment Projections	Complete
Monthly Funding Update	On Going
School Finance Rules Update	December

Shared Operational Services

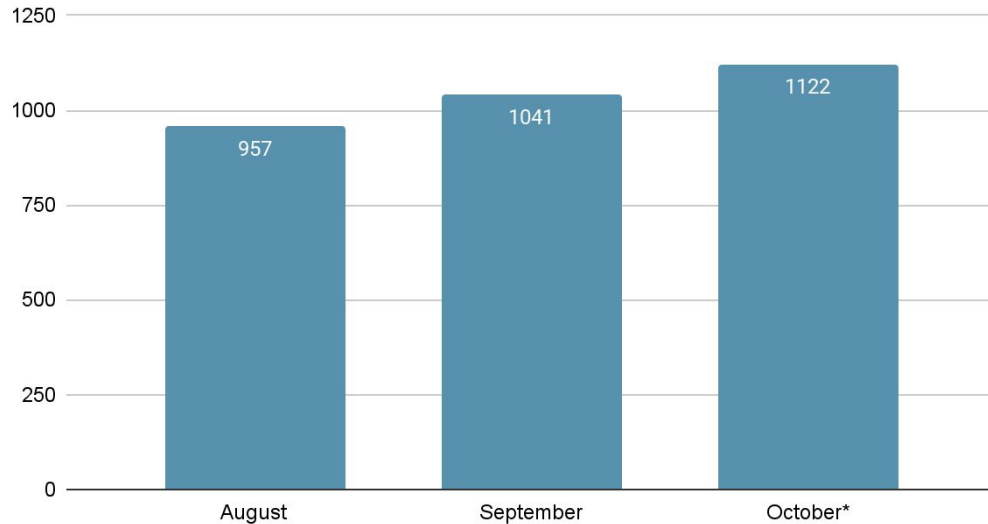| Action	Status
State Board Approval	November 8th
Colorado Association of Family & Children's Agencies (CAFCA) Introduction	December 6
Funds awarded to CAFCA	In process

Technical Assistance Center

Action	Status
Coordinator Job Posting	Working through HR process

Revision & Support of Licensing/Authorization

Action	Status
Draft Interagency Resource Guide	Draft is being reviewed by stakeholders

Data Review for SY 2324 - a snapshot

of Unique Students Served per Month

Bar chart showing number of unique students served per month:
- August: 957
- September: 1041
- October*: 1122

Open Seats & Waitlists
21 Facility Schools indicated they have an average of at least 1 open seat; **25** indicated they have on average at least 1 youth on a waitlist; **14** indicated they have both.

Outstanding Questions
1. What are main drivers around empty seats and waitlists?
2. Is the number of unique students served increased?
3. Are the number of total students served for the entire SY increasing?

* October includes Southgate Hospital (an additional 97 youth)

Prioritizing the Deep Dives With Some of the Data Being Collected

Here's what we believe you emphasized…

a) Time on waitlists, no waitlists, are kids on waitlists at multiple Facility Schools?

Broad questions: Is the System additionally optimized with waitlists or without? Will we have less kids on waitlists over time because we have increased capacity in a school or multiple schools?

(b) Uniquenesses of multi-site Facility School corporations or agencies; opportunities/challenges/benefits.

Broad Question: Do we need to relook at the way multi-sites are currently funded and check on our original assumptions?

Medicaid Reimbursement Funds - Implementation of SB23-219

SB23-219 Requires the department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and the work group to consult - to recommend a plan to provide guidance to approved facility schools on the eligibility standards required to request and receive medicaid reimbursement funding for therapeutic services to reduce reliance on school district revenue for therapeutic services.

Let's learn **more** about School-based Health Services - are there opportunities for funding to be directed to approved facility schools?

Rule-making STILL in progress…

Facility Schools Board Rules

- Rulemaking Hearing in December, 2023
- Finalization and implementation in January, 2024
- Includes addition of specialized day schools and accreditation information, as well as legislative cleanup
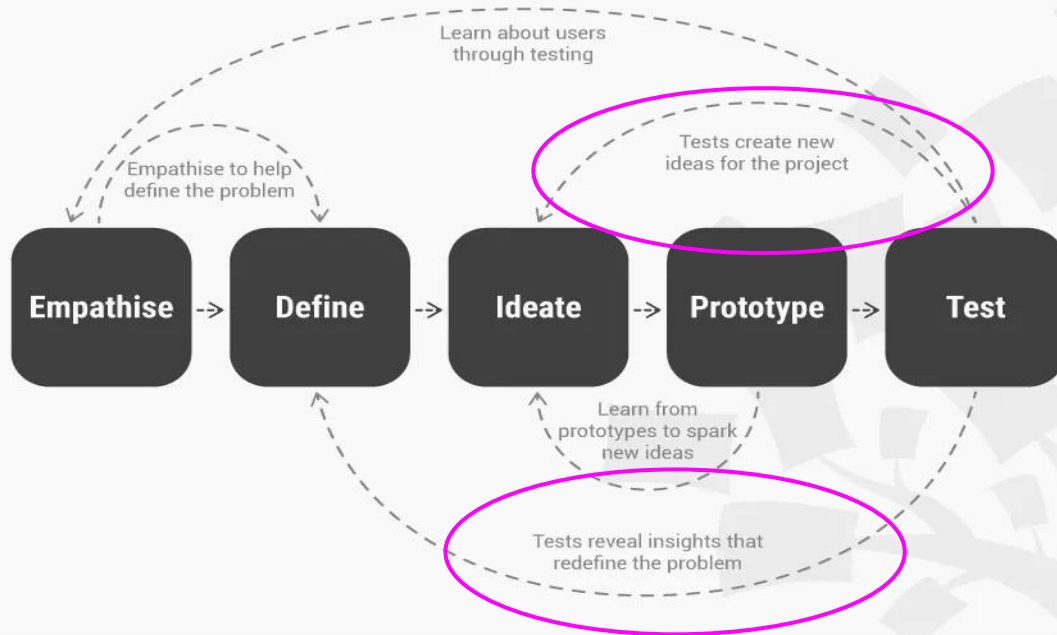

Public School Finance Rules - State Board

- Notice of rulemaking in December, 2023
- Rulemaking hearing in February, 2024
- Includes revisions for approved facility schools per SB23-219 for new funding model

Exceptional Children's Educational Act Rules - State Board

- Notice of rulemaking in March, 2024
- Rulemaking hearing in May, 2024
- Includes revisions for approved facility schools and tuition cost rates, as well as new baseline funding model

Wrap Up

Image of snowflakes in the night sky

Our Next Meeting date is Thursday January 18

There's a long hiatus between now and when we meet again. Enjoy the holidays <u>and</u> consider reviewing the Work Group meeting notes from TODAY before our meeting on the 18th of January!!!

Winter Pastime Poll