

Proposed Structure for the ULTCS Workgroup

One issue that needs to be discussed at the upcoming retreat of the Workgroup on January 21 is how we will organize our work going forward to ensure that our discussions are productive and that we continue our productive decision-making process. This is made somewhat more challenging by the fact that the membership of the workgroup is now larger (potentially 45 members) than it was two years ago.

We propose that following the retreat, we resume meeting monthly. Each meeting following the retreat would break out into subcommittees following the opening welcome, announcements, and any public testimony requests received from the general public. Subcommittee meetings would last 1 - 1 ½ hours followed by a 1 ½ meeting of the entire Workgroup.

Given the size of the workgroup, we can probably have either 4 or 5 subcommittees that focus on a particular strategic area. To get the discussion started, some examples of strategic subcommittees are as follows:

- Access – this subcommittee until now has been referred to as the “Front Door” Subcommittee, but its discussions have not been limited to how to best assist consumers in accessing services. The subcommittee will next turn its attention to issues with Ohio’s existing definitions around “level of care.” Note that this group already has its separate meeting schedule planned and will probably need to meet more often than monthly at times.
- Direct Service Worker Recruitment and Retention strategies. This issue has continually surfaced as an important one for the group and we are therefore proposing that it have its own subcommittee.
- Consumer Direction. While the first ULTCB workgroup sessions yielded a series of recommendations on consumer direction, we think that this is an evolving and exciting field that warrants continued attention by the ULTCS workgroup.
- LTSS for consumers not enrolled in Medicaid waiver programs (i.e., they access services through Medicaid state plan services).

Developing recommendations for the next biennial budget is a cross-cutting responsibility that we would ask each subcommittee to address as opposed to having a separate budget development group.