

WEBVTT

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00:00:06.209 --> 00:00:09.839

Do you have anything else cat or are you ready for us to get started?

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00:00:12.808 --> 00:00:16.289

Hold on. Okay. Wonderful.

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00:00:16.289 --> 00:00:24.960

I think I saw that see the numbers kind of slowing down on how many attendees we have joining.

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00:00:24.960 --> 00:00:28.800

Us, um, we want to give folks just oh.

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00:00:28.800 --> 00:00:34.859

Couple more maybe just 1 more minute or so to join in. Um.

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00:00:34.859 --> 00:00:38.579

I know sometimes.

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00:00:39.899 --> 00:00:45.899

The speed of your Internet can have a little bit to do with how quickly.

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00:00:45.899 --> 00:00:55.890

You can get into a webinar currently. We have about 163 individuals. Joining us really glad to see.

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00:00:55.890 --> 00:01:02.969

Everyone here and taking the time to talk about such an important topic with a.

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00:01:06.689 --> 00:01:10.200

Okay, I think we're leveling out so I will go ahead.

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00:01:10.200 --> 00:01:15.390

And get started, we have a lot of information to talk about today again, thank you for joining us.

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00:01:15.390 --> 00:01:21.000

For those of you who don't know me or I haven't had the chance to meet. Yeah the pleasure to me.

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00:01:21.000 --> 00:01:26.939

My name's just back I am the director for division of development with disabilities.

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00:01:26.939 --> 00:01:32.040

I've been with the division team here in the department since.

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00:01:32.040 --> 00:01:35.849

May of last year, so not quite a year. Yes.

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00:01:35.849 --> 00:01:41.069

Came from the division of senior and disability services where.

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00:01:41.069 --> 00:01:45.750

I had the pleasure to serve as their leader and director and.

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00:01:45.750 --> 00:01:54.239

Um, spend the past 17 years of my career it was a tough decision to come over and leave so many wonderful projects.

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00:01:54.239 --> 00:01:59.040

We also worked a lot with transportation.

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00:01:59.040 --> 00:02:02.129

So, uh, but, um, very.

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00:02:02.129 --> 00:02:07.920

Very, a personal decision near and dear to my heart to come be a part of.

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00:02:07.920 --> 00:02:11.069

This team and this advocacy.

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00:02:11.069 --> 00:02:24.389

Um, world of of creating the best system possible for individuals we serve, because husband and I have 5 daughters and our oldest, uh.

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00:02:24.389 --> 00:02:27.930

Happy was born with a a chromosome.

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00:02:27.930 --> 00:02:31.650

Uh, condition and abnormality and.

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00:02:31.650 --> 00:02:36.180

Very rare it doesn't have a name, but it does call here to have.

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00:02:36.180 --> 00:02:42.870

A developmental disability, and she needs a lot of special support, especially with behaviors.

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00:02:42.870 --> 00:02:45.900

And of a lot of times.

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00:02:45.900 --> 00:02:54.780

That supports that we need our specialized, even when it comes to transportation. So, um, I think this is a.

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00:02:54.780 --> 00:02:59.759

Really important topic to talk about and.

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00:02:59.759 --> 00:03:07.050

So, I'm going to give you kind of an overview of the information that we're going to go over today. Because I know a lot of you are on here. Um.

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00:03:07.050 --> 00:03:11.159

To talk about and help understand kind of, um.

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00:03:11.159 --> 00:03:15.900

The whole picture of of transportation services in the division.

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00:03:15.900 --> 00:03:22.050

And how we can all move forward together to advocate for improved access to care.

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00:03:22.050 --> 00:03:27.689

And so we're going to talk about 1st of all just overall the picture of.

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00:03:27.689 --> 00:03:33.599

Did services and the access to care issues that are going on right now.

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00:03:33.599 --> 00:03:40.349

In general, and then also going to get into some specifics about.

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00:03:40.349 --> 00:03:44.400

Transportation, of course, and the access, the care issues.

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Among our programs there and.

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00:03:48.419 --> 00:03:52.680

And then also there are some specific.

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00:03:52.680 --> 00:03:56.729

Challenges in the St Louis area right now, due to.

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00:03:56.729 --> 00:04:02.129

Um, several of our providers have have terminated their contracts.

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00:04:02.129 --> 00:04:06.810

Recently, and in that cost kind of an, even greater.

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00:04:06.810 --> 00:04:15.840

Um, challenge and we also have a St Louis transportation committee that's been meeting so you'll hear updated information.

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00:04:15.840 --> 00:04:18.870

About that and the work that's been going on there.

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00:04:18.870 --> 00:04:23.970

We also want to explain the current service and rate structure.

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00:04:23.970 --> 00:04:27.178

That we're in today as well as.

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00:04:27.178 --> 00:04:30.269

The governors recommended budget did come out.

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00:04:30.269 --> 00:04:36.358

Uh, last week, and, uh, that include recommendations for an increase.

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00:04:36.358 --> 00:04:46.048

And a standardization which we'll talk through of the standardization of the rates for transportation services. So.

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00:04:46.048 --> 00:04:49.949

And then also we are going to talk about some different solutions.

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00:04:49.949 --> 00:04:54.389

Um, that has been happening statewide in other areas.

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00:04:54.389 --> 00:05:00.689

Around the state to address transportation access that.

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00:05:00.689 --> 00:05:04.499

Are fairly unique and.

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And we think hold a lot of from it and of course, we want to answer your questions.

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00:05:10.199 --> 00:05:14.759

As Kat mentioned, we do have a lot of information to provide.

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And, um, I know that our time here is.

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Is not unlimited, so.

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We wanted to ahead of time, just to let everyone know that.

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Any questions that are put into the chat and.

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00:05:29.939 --> 00:05:33.658

Not able to be addressed during the presentation.

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00:05:33.658 --> 00:05:39.629

We will post a follow up Q. a too as well as we will post a recording of this webinar.

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00:05:39.629 --> 00:05:44.338

So just kind of an overview of.

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00:05:44.338 --> 00:05:56.038

Of where we're at today with our, um, our services. So the division of developmental disabilities provides the transportation service.

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00:05:56.038 --> 00:06:06.988

Through our Medicaid waivers, and those Medicaid waivers serve a population of around 15,000 individuals throughout the state of Missouri.

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00:06:06.988 --> 00:06:13.858

And those are those wavers are there's 4 different waivers.

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And it is the comprehensive waiver.

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The community support waiver, the partnership for help waiver and then we have the Missouri children with developmental disabilities labor.

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00:06:25.918 --> 00:06:30.059

We provide transportation through all of those waivers.

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As an authorized service and.

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00:06:33.928 --> 00:06:39.209

All of our services right now are very much experiencing.

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And a lot of challenges with access to care.

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00:06:46.048 --> 00:06:51.988

That is centered around not I think there used to be some challenges.

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00:06:51.988 --> 00:06:56.639

In access to care on with a division waiting list.

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00:06:56.639 --> 00:06:59.908

And so that really was.

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00:06:59.908 --> 00:07:04.978

Individuals who were looking for entry into a waiver.

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00:07:04.978 --> 00:07:09.389

And they were looking for services.

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00:07:09.389 --> 00:07:14.459

That they needed a slot within a waiver in order to access the services.

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So, for the past 2 years, coming up, with 12 years, the division has not had.

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00:07:20.848 --> 00:07:24.509

A waiting list for waiver slots they.

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State general assembly, um, with the governor support has funded waiver slots for all of those individuals speaking access to the services.

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00:07:35.038 --> 00:07:39.869

And we've been able to not have a waiting list as far as.

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00:07:39.869 --> 00:07:46.348

Individuals wanting to enter the waiver, however, as we have.

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00:07:46.348 --> 00:07:50.968

Experienced the current economic condition kind of.

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00:07:50.968 --> 00:07:56.908

Um, combined with rates that have not been funded and kept up with.

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00:07:56.908 --> 00:07:59.908

Are the.

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00:07:59.908 --> 00:08:06.178

Increased cost of living we have come to a point where.

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There are access to care issues for individuals.

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00:08:09.389 --> 00:08:17.939

Who are approved for waiver services they have a waiver slots and they need a service such as residential services.

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00:08:17.939 --> 00:08:24.569

Or transportation, and there is no provider able to serve them because the providers are not able.

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00:08:24.569 --> 00:08:35.969

To hire the staff to serve them, or they're not able to afford to pay the staff that they have to keep the staff that they have. And I think that we're seeing this.

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00:08:35.969 --> 00:08:39.869

Kind of just in general in the economic environment right now.

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00:08:39.869 --> 00:08:43.288

Um, 1 of the things I know we're all.

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00:08:43.288 --> 00:08:53.818

Uh, experiencing is maybe you have a a fast food restaurants that you go to frequently. I try not to go all the time or a restaurant that you like to go to.

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00:08:53.818 --> 00:09:07.769

Um, those, those establishments are often not posting signs that the inside is closed, or they're, they're only open certain days of the week or their head of shut down.

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00:09:07.769 --> 00:09:13.708

Um, I had a friend say they tried to go through mcdonald's drive through the other day and.

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00:09:13.708 --> 00:09:21.808

They got to the point to order, and they said, we can't take any orders. We don't have any kitchen staff. Nobody, nobody showed up. Um, so.

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00:09:21.808 --> 00:09:26.729

We're really at this point, I'm dealing with.

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00:09:26.729 --> 00:09:31.048

In economic environment, or wages are increasing.

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00:09:31.048 --> 00:09:38.038

Um, among the jobs that we are the labor market, where we are competing as well, so.

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00:09:38.038 --> 00:09:44.668

1 example that we provide where we track data is.

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00:09:44.668 --> 00:09:47.938

Uh, with our residential services, we have.

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00:09:47.938 --> 00:09:55.769

A open referral database, we call it and that is individuals who have been approved.

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00:09:55.769 --> 00:10:00.899

For the comprehensive waiver and need to find a residential provider.

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00:10:00.899 --> 00:10:04.229

And they are.

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00:10:04.229 --> 00:10:07.948

This meeting someone to provide their care.

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00:10:07.948 --> 00:10:12.119

That has climbed from.

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00:10:12.119 --> 00:10:18.599

In July, we had around 200 individuals to now we have over 517.

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00:10:18.599 --> 00:10:21.749

Individuals to are approved.

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00:10:21.749 --> 00:10:26.519

For services, they have a slot, they just are not able to have a provider.

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00:10:26.519 --> 00:10:30.178

Um, accept them because the provider does not have any staff.

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00:10:30.178 --> 00:10:35.908

I can't hire any staff to at the, the wage that they're able to pay.

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00:10:35.908 --> 00:10:45.328

So this is something that we are working to address through the governor's rate recommendations, which I'll talk about later.

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Um, but I did want to talk about kind of just the general access to care environment that we're experiencing.

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Right now, and, um, the issues that, that that is causing many of those individuals that are.

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00:10:58.828 --> 00:11:03.119

Waiting for residential services are in a hospital.

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00:11:03.119 --> 00:11:09.448

And with no place to go, or they're in an unsafe family situation.

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00:11:09.448 --> 00:11:18.269

So those are all things that we will be bringing to the general assembly as well as the issues with.

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00:11:18.269 --> 00:11:21.629

Access in the transportation service.

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00:11:21.629 --> 00:11:25.678

When you can't get transportation service, it's.

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It's a little bit different, because it affects every area. You can't get transportation then you can't get to your other services and so.

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00:11:35.219 --> 00:11:44.399

It leads to negative experiences beyond just the transportation itself so that's something we really want to.

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00:11:44.399 --> 00:11:47.458

Help everyone understand as we go through.

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00:11:47.458 --> 00:11:53.609

Uh, the budget process this year, and with that, I'm going to turn it over to.

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00:11:53.609 --> 00:12:01.828

Sheila wanting who's our assistant division director in the eastern region covers the St Louis metro area.

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00:12:01.828 --> 00:12:06.629

Um, and beyond to talk about kind of what what she's been regionally.

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00:12:07.798 --> 00:12:18.629

Stress and thank you to everyone who's taken the time to join us today. I know I've talked to several of you over the course of the last few weeks and.

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00:12:18.894 --> 00:12:28.764

Again, I want everyone to realize just how much we understand how this impacts you. How it impacts the folks that we serve.

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00:12:29.274 --> 00:12:39.173

I started my career back in 996 in case management and I know just 1st hand how people value their jobs and value their day programs.

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00:12:39.173 --> 00:12:51.563

And, you know, I realize that when we lose transportation, sometimes that means that they just can't go to those programs or get to work. And I know that that's just devastating.

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00:12:51.563 --> 00:13:04.494

And I know that it really also impacts the family, and it even impacts the need for other services too. So I appreciate you taking the time to, to join and help us talk about this a little bit.

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00:13:06.028 --> 00:13:10.943

Um, just kind of talking about transportation services in St. Louis.

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00:13:10.943 --> 00:13:11.214

Now,

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00:13:11.214 --> 00:13:15.354

I think we look back when we 1st started seeing a capacity issue,

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in the seamless area was in the fall of 2018 and at that time we lost a large transportation provider we were able to secure a new provider who picked up several routes.

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And we worked within our existing network, identified some other routes and and since that time we've added a few additional providers, and they've picked up some of those routes.

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00:13:38.092 --> 00:13:42.624

But we started keeping a waiting list of individuals who had funded for transportation.

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00:13:44.908 --> 00:13:59.278

But didn't have a provider back in the fall of 18 and we actually still today have some individuals on that waiting list who've been waiting for transportation since we lost that provider back in 18.

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00:13:59.278 --> 00:13:59.849

Um,

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00:14:00.443 --> 00:14:07.703

since then we've continued to approve new requests for transportation services and sometimes,

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00:14:07.703 --> 00:14:08.394

whenever,

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00:14:08.423 --> 00:14:08.724

you know,

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00:14:08.724 --> 00:14:09.774

those go through,

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00:14:09.803 --> 00:14:09.984

um,

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00:14:10.014 --> 00:14:12.894

we are able to secure a provider for that route,

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00:14:12.953 --> 00:14:16.703

but sometimes we can't and they're added to that waiting list as well.

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00:14:18.203 --> 00:14:33.024

With that waiting list, we do just periodically push that out to all of our providers and and try to to work with providers to develop new routes. But at this time we have a total of 171 individuals on that waiting list.

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00:14:35.663 --> 00:14:49.193

Additionally, we have had more recently lost in the fall. Actually 2021, we lost 2 providers that primarily worked in the St, Charles County area and there were 56 writers impacted by that.

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Most of those individuals are now on the waitlist. Most recently we received a notice of termination from another large provider here that serves primarily St Louis county.

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Initially they were going to in services for some folks on the 20th of January and others at the end of February. They have actually agreed to extend that termination date through April 30th.

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So we have an additional 114 writers that rely on that transportation provider that do have pending termination notices. So that's just kind of an overview of where we are right now.

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00:15:33.293 --> 00:15:40.884

And we did form a local work group that consists of folks from the division.

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00:15:41.303 --> 00:15:55.884

Some of our existing transportation providers some of our other service providers that are impacted by transportation. And also, some of our, our partners with our local boards are seamless county St Louis city.

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00:15:55.913 --> 00:16:08.484

And Jefferson County and St, Charles County boards have all been been working with us, you know, and we're looking at this problem as a region and seeing how we can work together to find some solutions.

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00:16:09.173 --> 00:16:12.953

So we did start meeting back in October of last year.

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00:16:13.854 --> 00:16:23.874

And I just want to share some of the barriers that the providers our initial meeting really was focused on what are the barriers, you know, kind of how what are we facing right now?

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00:16:24.923 --> 00:16:33.533

And a lot of our providers share that they are struggling to keep up with recruitment and retention as,

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as Jess was talking about,

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00:16:35.274 --> 00:16:35.634

you know,

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00:16:35.634 --> 00:16:37.464

as we've seen this,

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00:16:38.514 --> 00:16:53.394

this labor shortage a lot of the private sector has been able to respond more quickly with increases in rates of pay hourly rates of pay and so it's been harder for our transportation providers to hire drivers and keep the drivers that they've

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00:16:53.394 --> 00:16:53.903

had.

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00:16:54.384 --> 00:17:00.024

So, that's a lot of what we've talked about. They've also seen some other increased expenses to.

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00:17:00.448 --> 00:17:04.648

Particularly with insurance recently.

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00:17:04.648 --> 00:17:15.838

But they've talked about just truly right now several of them have fleet vehicles that are just setting and lots and they just don't have drivers for them. Um.

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00:17:15.838 --> 00:17:23.159

1 of the providers that we work with subcontracts, and sometimes they use rideshare Lyft and Uber.

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00:17:23.159 --> 00:17:27.959

And they're reporting that they are not able to subcontract out with.

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00:17:28.104 --> 00:17:32.814

Lived in Uber right now, because they're always operating under search pricing.

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00:17:32.814 --> 00:17:47.453

So, current rates don't cover that and additionally, even even if that weren't the case, because Uber and Lyft also have shortages, they can't count on those ride shares now to provide dependent transportation. Right, right.

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00:17:47.453 --> 00:17:53.544

When we need it, and most of our folks have very specific times where they need to get where where they're supposed to be.

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00:17:54.534 --> 00:18:06.294

So, we've as a group, in addition to looking at those barriers, we've also met with staff from the division to look at our and Jess is going to talk a little bit more about the Mercer rate review.

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00:18:06.804 --> 00:18:21.384

But 1 of our meetings, we devoted to looking at the results of that rate review and then the providers then had an opportunity to give feedback for consideration as we finalize that review.

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00:18:21.384 --> 00:18:27.023

And so we sent out a survey. So, some some providers responded individually. Some kind of.

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00:18:27.388 --> 00:18:41.459

Responded to us, and then we sent that in collectively, but we were able to take that information we gathered from that work group and incorporate that into to recommendations from that right review. So that was very helpful.

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00:18:42.294 --> 00:18:57.144

We haven't met yet this year. We were really waiting on the recommendations from the governor's office for the budget. For 23. we are scheduling our next meeting and we're really now going to be focused on next steps for the group.

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00:18:57.144 --> 00:19:05.483

We're trying to take a multifaceted approach and really look at any short term solutions where we can maybe creatively.

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00:19:07.199 --> 00:19:17.969

Work together, just on an individual basis, or on a route basis to find solutions for people. And then also it's some more midterm and longer term solutions for the region.

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00:19:24.449 --> 00:19:28.378

Thank you Sheila. I really appreciate you sharing that. We also.

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00:19:28.378 --> 00:19:33.808

Wanted to think the St Louis in St Charles area.

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And other transportation providers that participated.

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00:19:37.259 --> 00:19:43.378

And giving us feedback on the rate study that we conducted recently, because that.

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00:19:43.378 --> 00:19:46.949

What helped shape the governor's recommendations.

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00:19:46.949 --> 00:20:00.568

For such a large rate increase in the coming fiscal year, for transportation providers, and we know that no 1 really has extra time in the day right now to do that sort of thing. So it's really.

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00:20:00.568 --> 00:20:11.999

Um, out of their sense of advocacy, and just doing this for the right reasons that they spend the time doing that and providing that level of feedback for us. So.

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00:20:11.999 --> 00:20:16.499

And say, I appreciate that 1st, um, I do want to talk about.

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00:20:16.499 --> 00:20:22.138

What that rate study consisted of as well as the governor's rate recommendations.

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For the the coming year.

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00:20:25.378 --> 00:20:31.078

Um, to help address the access to care in transportation and other service areas.

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00:20:31.078 --> 00:20:34.618

But before I do that, I think it's really helpful to understand.

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00:20:34.618 --> 00:20:40.138

Where we're at today with the service.

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00:20:40.138 --> 00:20:44.669

Wave and structure around transportation.

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00:20:44.669 --> 00:20:49.318

And kind of what, um, what we need to do moving forward.

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00:20:49.318 --> 00:20:58.558

So, I have Wanda Crocker on our call here, and she is, I'll let her introduce herself and kind of talking about that just a little bit.

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00:21:01.469 --> 00:21:08.368

I am 1 to Crocker and I'm director of provider relations and, um, the.

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00:21:08.368 --> 00:21:17.669

I don't think this will become much of a surprise to any of the providers listening to this event.

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00:21:17.669 --> 00:21:29.699

Transportation, historically, as many of our other services were provided based on a rate setting method. Um, so every provider submitted their cost analysis.

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00:21:29.699 --> 00:21:39.929

Of what they thought their transportation was going to cost, and they submitted that to 30, 40 different people.

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00:21:39.929 --> 00:21:48.503

Who all analyzed and worked with them on what that rate would be. Um, some of our transportation providers have been with us for decades.

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00:21:48.804 --> 00:21:58.314

And so after those initial rates were set, the only way to garner additional funds or to increase those rates was through budget allocation.

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Cost of living adjustments or other methodology.

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00:22:01.648 --> 00:22:06.808

And so we now have a massive.

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00:22:06.808 --> 00:22:10.378

Range of rates from, um.

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00:22:10.378 --> 00:22:20.574

You know, a dollar a mile to, you know, just you can imagine with so many different people establishing rates and so many different providers using their own rate methodology.

204

00:22:20.993 --> 00:22:32.124

Um, it it was really a challenge when we started looking at it to try to come up with some commonalities with our existing transportation providers to help.

205

00:22:32.429 --> 00:22:38.068

Provide research to the, the independent rate study.

206

00:22:38.364 --> 00:22:48.443

So that was almost having to start completely from scratch with that independent entity, looking at best practice and what other states were doing.

207

00:22:48.773 --> 00:22:49.463

Um,

208

00:22:49.554 --> 00:22:55.523

it we couldn't holistically say 50% of our transportation providers do transportation ex,

209

00:22:55.554 --> 00:22:58.973

because there's so many methods from mileage to rate,

210

00:22:58.973 --> 00:22:59.903

uh,

211  
00:22:59.963 --> 00:23:04.134  
per mile per trip per zone different zones.

212  
00:23:04.163 --> 00:23:13.193  
There's such a wide variety of the way we do it now that, um, coming up with 1 method was super challenging to to leap into the future for consistency.

213  
00:23:14.398 --> 00:23:17.878  
So so now.

214  
00:23:17.878 --> 00:23:22.618  
We're working with the Mercer on a new rate study is.

215  
00:23:22.618 --> 00:23:28.828  
Just said, and the, the current proposal is a zone method.

216  
00:23:28.828 --> 00:23:32.729  
Which is 6 zones are.

217  
00:23:32.844 --> 00:23:47.574  
3 zones for people who do not need ambulatory assistants and 3 zones for people who do need ambulatory assistants, meaning they need modified vehicles, which obviously has an additional expense to that rate.

218  
00:23:48.084 --> 00:23:58.763  
So each zone has a specified number of miles that fits into that zone zone. 1 is 1 to 10 zone. 2 is 11 to 20 zone. 3 is 20 plus.

219  
00:23:59.068 --> 00:24:12.743  
Um, and so that seemed to fit into the majority if you can say, we have a majority, it meant a lot of how we are doing transportation with existing providers, but there's so many outliers outside of that.

220  
00:24:12.773 --> 00:24:17.003  
Um, but that is the working model that Mercer is evaluating for us.

221  
00:24:20.398 --> 00:24:24.628  
Thanks so much fun. I appreciate that the.

222  
00:24:24.628 --> 00:24:27.838

I think the theme there is that.

223

00:24:28.949 --> 00:24:33.388

There's no single way.

224

00:24:33.388 --> 00:24:36.929

That we currently reimbursed.

225

00:24:36.929 --> 00:24:41.729

Providers of transportation there are some providers who.

226

00:24:41.729 --> 00:24:48.179

Have a per mileage rates, and there are some providers who have a per trip rate.

227

00:24:48.179 --> 00:24:51.808

And depending on when you received your contracts.

228

00:24:51.808 --> 00:24:56.519

If you've been a provider with us.

229

00:24:56.519 --> 00:25:00.808

Since 995, it's almost as if.

230

00:25:00.808 --> 00:25:04.318

You're being punished because you.

231

00:25:04.318 --> 00:25:11.969

Been with us for longer and your rate is developed is based on what was determined the 995 and.

232

00:25:11.969 --> 00:25:18.028

Now, there's only cost of living adjustments that have been given by the general assembly.

233

00:25:18.028 --> 00:25:22.318

Over the years for providers that have.

234

00:25:22.318 --> 00:25:27.118

Added to that rate, so it's really created a situation where.

235

00:25:27.118 --> 00:25:32.548

Um, providers are at very on equal levels and.

236

00:25:32.548 --> 00:25:35.729

The last thing that we want is for the providers.

237

00:25:35.729 --> 00:25:38.909

Who's been with us the longest and who provide.

238

00:25:38.909 --> 00:25:47.308

You know, the really great care and, and services for our individuals to be thinking about leaving and.

239

00:25:47.308 --> 00:25:50.699

And I can, if we are.

240

00:25:50.699 --> 00:25:54.088

Disheartening that when a new provider comes in.

241

00:25:54.088 --> 00:26:00.778

You know, it's based on the current rates that, that they are cost methodology that they.

242

00:26:00.778 --> 00:26:10.259

Are turning into us this is, this is not a good system. We all agree. In fact, we've already started to move in this direction for services for the division.

243

00:26:10.259 --> 00:26:15.179

Um, last year we moved to, what.

244

00:26:15.179 --> 00:26:20.038

We refer to as a standardized rate, so just meaning that.

245

00:26:20.038 --> 00:26:23.818

Everyone is paid the same.

246

00:26:23.818 --> 00:26:27.538

Rate level, um, for the same type of service.

247

00:26:27.923 --> 00:26:42.354

And and then adjustments can be made from there over the years, based on increases in the market and changes the costs and things of that and of that nature but really trying to present those.

248

00:26:42.628 --> 00:26:45.808

Barrier access is.

249

00:26:45.808 --> 00:26:49.739

And making sure that.

250

00:26:49.739 --> 00:26:55.288

Our good providers stay with us, but especially those who've been with us for a very long time and.

251

00:26:55.288 --> 00:27:01.679

And committed to serving individuals who need access to transportation. So.

252

00:27:01.679 --> 00:27:07.558

That is kind of the basis for we moved over residential services.

253

00:27:07.558 --> 00:27:10.739

In the previous year with the help of the general assembly.

254

00:27:10.739 --> 00:27:18.538

To a standardized rate, and then the proposal and governor's recommendations for this year.

255

00:27:18.538 --> 00:27:22.528

Is to move to a standardized rate levels for transportation.

256

00:27:22.528 --> 00:27:25.648

That all providers would be moved up to the same level.

257

00:27:25.648 --> 00:27:30.628

And they would be reimbursed based on those zones and whether.

258

00:27:30.628 --> 00:27:35.278

Someone was ambulatory or needed assistance with simulation.

259

00:27:35.278 --> 00:27:39.148

And that.

260

00:27:39.148 --> 00:27:43.739

Proposal is in budget line.

261

00:27:43.739 --> 00:27:48.179

It's important for when you may be advocating for yourself, it's been.

262

00:27:48.179 --> 00:28:01.919

Dd community program, and it's part of our larger overall service rate recommendations for the program and the BD community programs is budget line. 10.410.

263

00:28:01.919 --> 00:28:06.838

And again, that's 10.410.

264

00:28:06.838 --> 00:28:11.159

And the division developmental disabilities.

265

00:28:11.159 --> 00:28:20.909

So, the current under the current rate structure and and what we have paid for services for transportation.

266

00:28:20.909 --> 00:28:25.679

Um, the, the cost that for the previous year.

267

00:28:25.679 --> 00:28:32.219

For transportation services was slightly over 11.6Million dollars statewide.

268

00:28:32.219 --> 00:28:35.969

With the rate increases that are being recommended.

269

00:28:35.969 --> 00:28:40.828

That would increase the total budget.

270

00:28:40.828 --> 00:28:46.138

By 3,177,000 dollars.

271

00:28:46.138 --> 00:28:50.548

And so we would be a approximately.

272

00:28:50.548 --> 00:28:54.778  
You know, a 27 to 30%.

273

00:28:54.778 --> 00:29:00.628  
Increase in the overall amount that we are placing towards transportation.

274

00:29:00.628 --> 00:29:04.679  
Because the providers are at different levels, this will be a different.

275

00:29:04.679 --> 00:29:08.189  
The level of increase, depending on where you're at today.

276

00:29:08.189 --> 00:29:12.148  
And so well, it's overall adding an additional 3 point.

277

00:29:12.148 --> 00:29:16.138  
Almost 2Million dollars to the transportation services budgets.

278

00:29:16.138 --> 00:29:19.318  
If a provider came in.

279

00:29:19.318 --> 00:29:22.499  
At a lower rate, they would be receiving a greater increase.

280

00:29:22.499 --> 00:29:27.298  
And then if someone had been receiving a higher rate than that.

281

00:29:27.298 --> 00:29:31.558  
They would all be brought up to that same standardized level.

282

00:29:31.558 --> 00:29:35.519  
And so that we have access to care among the program, you to formally.

283

00:29:35.519 --> 00:29:38.548  
Um, that is.

284

00:29:38.548 --> 00:29:42.509  
The recommendations now it's based on.

285

00:29:42.509 --> 00:29:46.318

A lot of the feedback that we received from.

286

00:29:46.318 --> 00:29:49.949

The, the transportation providers.

287

00:29:49.949 --> 00:29:54.148

In in our program and.

288

00:29:54.148 --> 00:29:59.009

It was conducted by Mercer who did does our rate studies.

289

00:29:59.009 --> 00:30:07.288

As an independent actuarial company, and they do this for a number of states for their Medicaid programs to their.

290

00:30:07.288 --> 00:30:13.888

Really helpful in helping us understand how states around the nation are. Um.

291

00:30:13.888 --> 00:30:17.249

Developing the.

292

00:30:17.249 --> 00:30:20.278

The amount and.

293

00:30:20.278 --> 00:30:23.699

Service structure for program.

294

00:30:23.699 --> 00:30:32.308

And they utilized information, a lot of information that they utilize to develop the rate assumption.

295

00:30:32.308 --> 00:30:35.308

Are things that.

296

00:30:35.308 --> 00:30:39.419

I will not get into the details of because.

297

00:30:39.419 --> 00:30:49.679

But I will give you kind of an overview because they include things like employer, taxes and worker compensation costs for the company insurance.

298

00:30:49.679 --> 00:30:54.689

Employee benefits, including paid time off and.

299

00:30:54.689 --> 00:30:59.638

There's also something called a productivity rate, which I think is really.

300

00:30:59.638 --> 00:31:03.269

Important to understand in the service of transportation.

301

00:31:03.269 --> 00:31:06.538

Um, is because productivity and.

302

00:31:06.538 --> 00:31:12.328

A lot of our services meaning the amount of time that someone is working, that can be considered billable.

303

00:31:12.328 --> 00:31:15.868

Um, for the service is pretty high.

304

00:31:15.868 --> 00:31:22.169

Um, but for transportation, there's a lot of the time that you're in that 1 to 10 miles.

305

00:31:22.169 --> 00:31:27.659

That you are possibly assisting someone with getting into the vehicle.

306

00:31:27.659 --> 00:31:38.159

For out of the vehicle and so that is a factor that based on a lot of the feedback from the transportation providers.

307

00:31:38.159 --> 00:31:41.848

Um, we had a 75% productivity level.

308

00:31:41.848 --> 00:31:50.699

Based on what Merci has done nationally and because of the information and feedback we got that has actually been at a 60% productivity level.

309

00:31:50.699 --> 00:31:53.788

Um, for our program.

310

00:31:53.788 --> 00:32:01.019

And in our rate assumptions, and anyone who wants more details on.

311

00:32:01.019 --> 00:32:08.338

The rate study and how it was conducted, and kind of what the assumptions are going into developing that surface rate level.

312

00:32:08.338 --> 00:32:12.659

We'd be happy to provide those, but.

313

00:32:12.659 --> 00:32:24.179

I realized it is more part of what providers are interested in knowing. So, the other thing I will say is that.

314

00:32:24.179 --> 00:32:27.538

We had, um, trended Ford.

315

00:32:27.538 --> 00:32:34.828

A Bureau of labor statistic Mercer had trended for a bureau of Labor Statistics wage.

316

00:32:34.828 --> 00:32:39.419

Information about what a driver was paid.

317

00:32:39.419 --> 00:32:45.598

In Missouri, in the 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

318

00:32:45.598 --> 00:32:50.459

And they trended that forward based on cost of living factors and found that.

319

00:32:50.459 --> 00:32:54.628

The driver to be paid around 15 dollars.

320

00:32:54.628 --> 00:32:58.679

Because of the current, um.

321

00:32:58.679 --> 00:33:02.429

The cost of living kind of trend factor.

322

00:33:02.429 --> 00:33:06.058

We received numerous amounts of feedback that.

323

00:33:06.058 --> 00:33:12.509

Because of the current labor market, that was not a viable wage to keep.

324

00:33:12.509 --> 00:33:16.108

A driver or a driver, or hire a new 1.

325

00:33:16.108 --> 00:33:21.209

And so that was adjusted based on the feedback from our transportation providers to this.

326

00:33:21.209 --> 00:33:29.999

Rate that was developed to put forward the recommendation for an additional 3.2Million dollars within the transportation service.

327

00:33:29.999 --> 00:33:36.719

Was developed based on a driver wage of 18 dollars and 13 cents per hour.

328

00:33:36.719 --> 00:33:41.278

And then a dispatcher wage, because that's built into the rate as well.

329

00:33:41.278 --> 00:33:44.638

Of 2009 dollars and 61 cents per hour.

330

00:33:44.638 --> 00:33:49.858

So, we just wanted to kind of paint that picture a little bit and.

331

00:33:49.858 --> 00:33:53.489

Um, and give the information about.

332

00:33:53.489 --> 00:33:57.088

What the recommendations are, and now you'll find.

333

00:33:57.088 --> 00:34:02.638

In the overall recommendations for our services on.

334

00:34:02.638 --> 00:34:07.409

Increasing access to care and addressing the issues.

335

00:34:07.409 --> 00:34:11.338

That the governor has recommended in that line.

336

00:34:11.338 --> 00:34:14.458

Where the transportation is.

337

00:34:14.458 --> 00:34:20.608

An additional, a total 411Million dollars.

338

00:34:20.608 --> 00:34:31.768

To be put towards BD service rates as new funding in order to increase the rate and ensure access to care.

339

00:34:31.768 --> 00:34:37.559

So that, that 3.2Million is a part of that larger 411Million dollars.

340

00:34:37.559 --> 00:34:44.579

Um, recommendation, and I'm with that, I'm going to turn it over.

341

00:34:44.579 --> 00:34:48.208

To Wendy was sick and she was going to share.

342

00:34:48.208 --> 00:34:53.668

Some of the other solutions going to be on rates that have worked as far as.

343

00:34:53.668 --> 00:34:56.728

Addressing access to care and transportation.

344

00:35:00.264 --> 00:35:02.333

Thank you Jess. Good afternoon.

345

00:35:02.333 --> 00:35:06.804

Everyone I'm Wendy would say the deputy division director over community operations,

346

00:35:07.224 --> 00:35:18.143

and I wanted to just talk a little bit about some things that are going on in other places across the state is certainly isn't a 1 size fits all.

347

00:35:18.653 --> 00:35:30.684

Type of service and solution rural and urban areas, offer much different resources in terms of public transportation, creating different opportunities for partnerships and coordination.

348

00:35:30.954 --> 00:35:38.543

So it's really what's been successful is in the local areas that we're really working with who they're.

349

00:35:38.789 --> 00:35:49.048

Their colleagues and counterparts there are providing transportation for other services, or in public transportation in order to put together a package.

350

00:35:49.764 --> 00:35:54.503

Depending on the needs of the individuals that that are living in their area,

351

00:35:54.864 --> 00:35:55.764

for example,

352

00:35:55.764 --> 00:35:57.202

in the leg of the Ozarks,

353

00:35:58.164 --> 00:36:10.793

there was a not for profit that was formed called lake of the Ozarks transportation council and it was developed to promote develop and operate or fund mass transportation related to the facilities,

354

00:36:10.793 --> 00:36:12.833

and the programs in the lake area.

355

00:36:13.253 --> 00:36:18.083

The partners in that endeavor are the Senate bill,

356

00:36:18.083 --> 00:36:21.233

40 boards of Camden Miller and Morgan counties,

357

00:36:21.592 --> 00:36:35.393

and they are partnering with the local public transportation provider to expand the opportunities for services and transportation in their major cities in their areas and really are targeting.

358

00:36:35.639 --> 00:36:47.034

Um, what the individual needs are of the of the folks that live in the area, whether it's getting to work, um, getting to day programs and it's evening hours. Some people need evening hours.

359

00:36:47.034 --> 00:36:52.884

Some people are needing weekend hours and so just really specializing it to what their needs are. There.

360

00:36:53.333 --> 00:37:02.153

And then, in platting Jackson counties over on the Kansas City side, the Senate bill, 40 boards over there, provide their own transportation service.

361

00:37:02.454 --> 00:37:08.603

So they own the vans they employ the drivers, and they fund and operate, um, that transportation service.

362

00:37:08.603 --> 00:37:21.414

And they do bill the division for, um, a transportation rate that they have negotiated with the state as well as, um, covering some of the infrastructure costs through their own county dollars. I'm sure.

363

00:37:22.134 --> 00:37:33.143

And then in clay County, which is also over in the Kansas City area that sent a bill 40 board, actually contracts with a local transportation provider to meet their needs.

364

00:37:33.143 --> 00:37:37.403

And so that is again, just very specialized to to.

365

00:37:37.679 --> 00:37:50.994

What the folks in that area are needing to get to work to get to day programs and those kinds of activities we also watch other programs and what they're doing and how innovative they are being.

366

00:37:50.994 --> 00:38:03.353

So the mid America regional council in Kansas City has had some really good success and developing an on demand ride system as much like Uber or Lyft for their senior population.

367

00:38:03.684 --> 00:38:15.534

And so we want to be sure and pay attention to what they're doing and learn the lessons from them that have made this a success and see how they can be perhaps replicated in our service delivery system.

368

00:38:16.134 --> 00:38:30.833

And then 1, other thing that we need to be sure to include in our solution is our current non emergency medical transportation provider for the state has a way to reimburse families for mileage.

369

00:38:31.074 --> 00:38:32.094

If they.

370

00:38:32.400 --> 00:38:37.500

Provide the transportation themselves and so we want to be sure.

371

00:38:37.644 --> 00:38:49.824

Look at ways to include this as an option to families that might look to that as a reasonable solution for their situation. It would just help them offset some of the costs of doing that.

372

00:38:49.824 --> 00:38:53.005

So we want to be able to offer as much flexibility.

373

00:38:53.335 --> 00:39:05.394

As we can in different options, because we know that again 1 size doesn't fit all. So it's, it's about diversity and our service options and and what works in a particular location.

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00:39:05.394 --> 00:39:13.255

So, it will take a lot of partnership and coordination locally at that local level to develop whatever it's going to work.

375

00:39:13.469 --> 00:39:27.324

I also wanted to just mentioned that the Missouri developmental disabilities council is leading the Missouri transportation task force with a broad representation from departments and divisions across the state,

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00:39:27.355 --> 00:39:29.994

including the division of developmental disabilities,

377

00:39:29.994 --> 00:39:31.315

the economic development,

378

00:39:31.315 --> 00:39:32.965

workforce development,

379

00:39:32.994 --> 00:39:41.755

Department of health and senior services and youth services all of whom have money designated for transportation in their state budgets.

380

00:39:42.085 --> 00:39:53.244

And so, what they are really focused on is to look for opportunities to collaborate and use transportation dollars more efficiently and effectively to better address the larger needs.

381

00:39:53.545 --> 00:40:00.954

So they're also exploring innovative ideas that they have tapped into from other states,

382

00:40:00.954 --> 00:40:14.724

such as a mobility coordination system that employs mobility coordinators or mobility managers to help connect people with transportation solutions across a broad array of transportation,

383

00:40:14.724 --> 00:40:15.835

funded services.

384

00:40:16.195 --> 00:40:26.815

So there's just a lot of work going on across the state to look at opportunities and design help design models that are more efficient for us.

385

00:40:26.815 --> 00:40:34.344

And we'll just continue to look at that and evaluate that and work those, those solutions into our waiver programs as we can.

386

00:40:34.650 --> 00:40:38.699

Jess back to you.

387

00:40:40.530 --> 00:40:44.909

Thank you, Andy. It's really good to hear about.

388

00:40:44.909 --> 00:40:50.699

Hello, happy community and community partners coming together to find a solution.

389

00:40:50.699 --> 00:41:01.230

And and so, yeah, it can't be community specific, but there's also some things to be done on this date level. And there was a really great question that came in on.

390

00:41:01.230 --> 00:41:05.969

The chat function that I wanted to talk through and that is.

391

00:41:05.969 --> 00:41:09.000

Um, from.

392

00:41:09.000 --> 00:41:16.619

Regarding the way that we who we can reimburse transportation to, and the way that we provide it so.

393

00:41:16.619 --> 00:41:20.130

Currently, we can.

394

00:41:20.130 --> 00:41:26.190

Provide transportation services through.

395

00:41:26.190 --> 00:41:29.730

Contracted agencies who have a contracted.

396

00:41:29.730 --> 00:41:32.760

Provide transportation through the division.

397

00:41:32.760 --> 00:41:36.179

And the question really was.

398

00:41:36.179 --> 00:41:43.710

Would you look at possibly doing that differently in your agreement with Medicaid and.

399

00:41:43.710 --> 00:41:48.840

Doing a reimbursement to a guardian.

400

00:41:48.840 --> 00:41:52.980

Or a relative or a family member.

401

00:41:52.980 --> 00:41:57.989

Um, someone in that person's life who could provide the transportation.

402

00:41:57.989 --> 00:42:02.190

Um, and be reimbursed for their time.

403

00:42:02.190 --> 00:42:06.690

And I think this has actually been explored in the past.

404

00:42:06.690 --> 00:42:11.250

And I want to say, don't quote me, um.

405

00:42:11.250 --> 00:42:20.280

Actually, you are going to quote me, because I'm being recorded, so I can call myself a liar later. There may have been other barriers, but I believe 1 of the barriers.

406

00:42:20.280 --> 00:42:24.000

To changing this in our transportation.

407

00:42:24.000 --> 00:42:28.860

Was the amount of administrative oversight in that?

408

00:42:28.860 --> 00:42:33.599

When we have a payment set up.

409

00:42:33.599 --> 00:42:38.280

With a provider that can be built.

410

00:42:38.280 --> 00:42:44.909

And the payment is sent through the system, but when you have an individual.

411

00:42:44.909 --> 00:42:55.349

Uh, who is 15,000 individuals, and suddenly a 1000 of them are not using a transportation provider, but they're using someone in their lives.

412

00:42:55.349 --> 00:43:00.539

Um, who's able to provide that transportation who's being reimbursed? Then you have.

413

00:43:00.539 --> 00:43:03.960

Um, a 1000 different.

414

00:43:03.960 --> 00:43:12.119

Reimbursement requests coming in per month and you want to process those timely and you'd have to do a lot of education around.

415

00:43:12.119 --> 00:43:21.150

How that reimbursement is filled out and make sure that person's a qualified vendor and make sure that they have the right background checks because that's something. Vms is very big about.

416

00:43:21.150 --> 00:43:25.079

As it was a good thing, but.

417

00:43:25.079 --> 00:43:29.969

Uh, the administrative capacity of the division to.

418

00:43:29.969 --> 00:43:33.809

Carry out that program at the time, um, carry out that model.

419

00:43:33.809 --> 00:43:38.699

Um, was was a barrier however, I don't think with.

420

00:43:38.699 --> 00:43:43.260

Continued access to care issues that it's something that we wouldn't.

421

00:43:43.260 --> 00:43:48.690

Explore in the future and see, is there a way that other states are doing this?

422

00:43:48.690 --> 00:43:54.480

And the, they can keep the administrative capacity function down to a minimum.

423

00:43:54.480 --> 00:43:57.780

Maybe, they're finding a way to.

424

00:43:57.780 --> 00:44:04.769

Um, do that through 1 specific contractor if they don't have the state staff capacity to process that.

425

00:44:04.769 --> 00:44:09.269

Um, so that's done. That's definitely something we're willing to explore. Is.

426

00:44:09.269 --> 00:44:15.389

Are other states doing on kind of a self directed model of transportation.

427

00:44:15.389 --> 00:44:20.940

That, um, we could explore doing through through our waivers.

428

00:44:20.940 --> 00:44:27.719

So that was a great question, and something that we will be exploring.

429

00:44:27.719 --> 00:44:32.340

And see.

430

00:44:32.340 --> 00:44:36.989

You look at some of the other questions that have come in.

431

00:44:36.989 --> 00:44:42.599

We did have some requests for the rate study assumptions and.

432

00:44:42.599 --> 00:44:45.630

Some specific individuals and we will.

433

00:44:45.630 --> 00:44:50.429

Uh, make sure to get those out to anybody who requested those and we just.

434

00:44:50.429 --> 00:44:53.489

Include those with the.

435

00:44:53.489 --> 00:44:58.289

With the presentation as well.

436

00:45:06.719 --> 00:45:14.429

I'm looking through here, um.

437

00:45:15.750 --> 00:45:25.019

We did have some questions about this, being posted or webinar being recorded it will be recorded and we will post it.

438

00:45:25.019 --> 00:45:28.440

Online after, um.

439

00:45:32.849 --> 00:45:36.510

Kind of hard to read the question. So I'm talking to if anybody can.

440

00:45:38.699 --> 00:45:41.820

So, I see 1 more question and it was, um.

441

00:45:41.820 --> 00:45:48.719

Regarding whether the state and the Senate bill, 40 boards, the county developmental disability boards could partner.

442

00:45:48.719 --> 00:45:52.110

Together, um, and whether that's been tried.

443

00:45:52.110 --> 00:45:56.190

Um, and that is.

444

00:45:56.190 --> 00:46:00.389

Uh, absolutely a possibility. Um, so.

445

00:46:00.389 --> 00:46:11.579

We know that, uh, the, the county, uh, board to send it for 44 support transportation providers in a variety of different ways, um, in their area.

446

00:46:11.579 --> 00:46:15.840

Depending upon the local board and their priorities.

447

00:46:15.840 --> 00:46:19.920

And we'd be open to discussing that with a specific county.

448

00:46:19.920 --> 00:46:26.730

Who wanted some technical assistants we can point and direction of other partner board.

449

00:46:26.730 --> 00:46:32.099

Who might be might be doing something and when they talked about.

450

00:46:32.099 --> 00:46:36.239

Believe it was in Camden, Camden county. Okay.

451

00:46:36.239 --> 00:46:40.409

But they had a very unique model that they were using.

452

00:46:40.409 --> 00:46:52.980  
Jackson county? Yeah. So the, um.

453  
00:46:52.980 --> 00:46:58.679  
There's a good question here about moving forward. What's the anticipated? Timeline?

454  
00:46:58.679 --> 00:47:02.519  
Where do we go from here?

455  
00:47:02.519 --> 00:47:10.530  
And and so so in the budget process, we will 1st.

456  
00:47:10.530 --> 00:47:15.960  
Present the Department's budget to the House budget.

457  
00:47:15.960 --> 00:47:20.070  
And then, uh, we will.

458  
00:47:20.070 --> 00:47:24.780  
Hear back from, you know, present them with the governor's recommended budget.

459  
00:47:24.780 --> 00:47:28.110  
From there, the house, the budget committee members.

460  
00:47:28.110 --> 00:47:34.829  
Will make decisions regarding whether they agree with the governor's recommendation regarding our budget.

461  
00:47:34.829 --> 00:47:39.599  
Or whether they want to make changes to that and then.

462  
00:47:39.599 --> 00:47:45.539  
Um, and that can be an increase, um, beyond what we have the governor has already recommended.

463  
00:47:45.539 --> 00:47:52.530  
And from that point, once they agree on their house budget committee recommendations.

464  
00:47:52.530 --> 00:47:57.630

They will send that to the larger.

465

00:47:57.630 --> 00:48:01.380

Entire house of Representatives to the House floor.

466

00:48:01.380 --> 00:48:07.349

For a vote that budget, as it's approved in the house.

467

00:48:07.349 --> 00:48:12.269

We'll go to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

468

00:48:12.269 --> 00:48:16.559

And the Senate will look at the.

469

00:48:16.559 --> 00:48:20.969

Governor's recommendation and the houses recommendations.

470

00:48:20.969 --> 00:48:27.780

And then they will hear from the department and hear from the public and.

471

00:48:27.780 --> 00:48:31.829

They will take that all into account and they will have sent a recommendation.

472

00:48:31.829 --> 00:48:35.400

Sometimes they send it recommendations are.

473

00:48:35.400 --> 00:48:39.570

The same as the house and the governor's recommendations.

474

00:48:39.570 --> 00:48:43.920

Sometimes, if there's disagreement among the governor.

475

00:48:43.920 --> 00:48:48.809

And the house, then it will take 1 side or the other.

476

00:48:48.809 --> 00:48:52.860

And sometimes they will have a completely different recommendation.

477

00:48:52.860 --> 00:48:57.690

Um, anything that is different.

478

00:48:57.690 --> 00:49:01.920

Then what the house has recommended.

479

00:49:01.920 --> 00:49:05.070

If there's a discrepancy between the 2.

480

00:49:05.070 --> 00:49:08.670

Then that will, uh.

481

00:49:08.670 --> 00:49:12.840

Remain open and open budget item.

482

00:49:12.840 --> 00:49:17.219

Um, so if the house and the Senate agree upon something.

483

00:49:17.219 --> 00:49:21.780

Um, then that moves forward in a final budget votes.

484

00:49:21.780 --> 00:49:29.699

In each chamber to be brought forward to the governor for signature. This is all happening in between right now.

485

00:49:29.699 --> 00:49:34.590

Um, we have our 1st budget hearing with the house.

486

00:49:34.590 --> 00:49:38.489

Budget Committee tomorrow morning at 815.

487

00:49:38.489 --> 00:49:44.489

Cat, if you want to throw the house of Representatives websites.

488

00:49:44.489 --> 00:49:50.639

On the chat, um, that is live streamed.

489

00:49:50.639 --> 00:49:59.670

And you are able to watch that from your home, and we will provide testimony and information to them about the access to care issues.

490

00:49:59.670 --> 00:50:04.409

Uh, during that hearing, so that.

491

00:50:04.409 --> 00:50:09.420

The, the, the general assembly needs to have their.

492

00:50:09.420 --> 00:50:12.480

Final budget recommendations to the governor.

493

00:50:12.480 --> 00:50:16.889

No, later than some date in.

494

00:50:16.889 --> 00:50:21.780

Late April, I'm going to say, but if.

495

00:50:21.780 --> 00:50:27.989

Uh, there's 1 more step at the house and Senate didn't didn't agree and it's left open. It goes to a joint committee.

496

00:50:27.989 --> 00:50:31.170

That includes house and Senate leadership.

497

00:50:31.170 --> 00:50:34.440

Um, and then we'd need to go back through a full vote.

498

00:50:34.440 --> 00:50:38.010

Um, of the house and Senate, so, um, depending on.

499

00:50:38.010 --> 00:50:41.519

What happens throughout the budget process.

500

00:50:41.519 --> 00:50:46.440

There is still worth the very beginning, so there's a lot of time.

501

00:50:46.440 --> 00:50:51.539

Um, in the coming months, that adjustments could be made to what the governor recommended.

502

00:50:51.539 --> 00:50:57.030

And the, the, the end of session is in.

503

00:50:57.030 --> 00:51:01.110

Uh, may make sense I believe, um.

504

00:51:01.110 --> 00:51:04.980

And you think it's always a few days before my middle daughter's birthday.

505

00:51:04.980 --> 00:51:08.340

Um, but then the governor has.

506

00:51:08.340 --> 00:51:11.760

And the signature of.

507

00:51:11.760 --> 00:51:17.940

The budget, which you can do a veto.

508

00:51:17.940 --> 00:51:21.750

This this program, you know.

509

00:51:21.750 --> 00:51:26.909

Karen, if he, if he's recommending more money for the program.

510

00:51:26.909 --> 00:51:32.730

There's some detail with more money for the program. So I don't think we have to worry about the veto process, but.

511

00:51:32.730 --> 00:51:42.360

So kind of leave that part out, but the budget that he signed will go into effect on July 1st so we'll be able to start providing and pain.

512

00:51:42.360 --> 00:51:46.380

The increase the rate that we're recommended is improved in the budget process.

513

00:51:46.380 --> 00:51:50.039

On July 1st, this year, um.

514

00:51:50.039 --> 00:51:54.780

So, a lot to happen during that time.

515

00:51:54.780 --> 00:51:58.230

Um, and.

516

00:51:58.230 --> 00:52:04.530  
Oh, here's a great question. Um, appreciates it.

517  
00:52:04.530 --> 00:52:12.480  
It's regarding advocacy advocacy is important for the governor's budget to be approved.

518  
00:52:12.480 --> 00:52:15.719  
To him to the families address, their advocacy efforts.

519  
00:52:15.719 --> 00:52:18.900  
As a waiver service, this should be addressed.

520  
00:52:18.900 --> 00:52:26.579  
Um, so for the department, so yeah. Um, so I'm just going to talk through kind of a, uh.

521  
00:52:26.579 --> 00:52:30.659  
1, more time the rate recommendations increases.

522  
00:52:30.659 --> 00:52:35.730  
For transportation are included in a new decision item.

523  
00:52:35.730 --> 00:52:41.130  
Of the larger rate recommendations for the program.

524  
00:52:41.130 --> 00:52:45.179  
The new decision item is for community programs.

525  
00:52:45.179 --> 00:52:50.579  
And that is in the House budget bill, 10.

526  
00:52:50.579 --> 00:52:55.530  
It's 10.410 is the section CD community program.

527  
00:52:55.530 --> 00:53:02.039  
And the new decision items for rate increases is a total of 411Million dollars.

528  
00:53:02.039 --> 00:53:08.969  
And so it would be important for you to, uh, if you want to advocate for that.

529

00:53:08.969 --> 00:53:13.139

To contact your local representative.

530

00:53:13.139 --> 00:53:18.389

Or, and and or Senator and talk to them about.

531

00:53:18.389 --> 00:53:22.110

How the transportation affects.

532

00:53:22.110 --> 00:53:25.139

You for your loved 1, or are there in your life?

533

00:53:25.139 --> 00:53:29.219

And what they can do to help support.

534

00:53:29.219 --> 00:53:33.929

Um, and and just let them know about the, the recommendation.

535

00:53:33.929 --> 00:53:40.530

Um, within the governor's budget to increase transportation to address the access to care issue.

536

00:53:40.530 --> 00:53:54.210

I appreciate that good question.

537

00:54:02.579 --> 00:54:06.030

Yeah, so we had, um.

538

00:54:06.030 --> 00:54:10.440

We had a question in the chat about.

539

00:54:10.440 --> 00:54:14.639

Transportation for.

540

00:54:14.639 --> 00:54:19.230

A transportation provider, like Uber as a subcontractor.

541

00:54:19.230 --> 00:54:24.059

Not being appropriate for specific clients because of.

542

00:54:24.059 --> 00:54:32.280

Uh, the, the type of disability that they have, or it's just not being a good fit for them.

543

00:54:32.280 --> 00:54:38.820

And, um, so that is why we want to be able to have a kind of a robust.

544

00:54:38.820 --> 00:54:42.059

A, Ray of providers who.

545

00:54:42.059 --> 00:54:46.949

Provide the service and contract with us so that there is choice and provider.

546

00:54:46.949 --> 00:54:51.389

And they really the system really should look like.

547

00:54:51.389 --> 00:54:57.420

Um, a picture of of the right system of access to care is the individual.

548

00:54:57.420 --> 00:55:00.570

Is looking at the transportation providers in their area.

549

00:55:00.570 --> 00:55:04.559

And what types of transportation they provide, what types of.

550

00:55:04.559 --> 00:55:07.860

Specialized support that they provide.

551

00:55:07.860 --> 00:55:13.739

And really choosing the provider that meets their needs. That's gonna be a little bit different for everyone.

552

00:55:13.739 --> 00:55:17.489

And, um, some transportation providers are going to have extra.

553

00:55:17.489 --> 00:55:26.219

Um, mobility vehicles, and some transportation providers are going to be really good with providing behavioral support and.

554

00:55:26.219 --> 00:55:32.219

Others are going to have different hours of operation that they they specialize in.

555

00:55:32.219 --> 00:55:40.590

So, we want that to be there to be that robust choice. And I think that was some really great feedback is that there's not 1 size fits all on transportation providers.

556

00:55:40.590 --> 00:55:44.849

And that's why we need to have a really good network of providers.

557

00:55:44.849 --> 00:55:51.869

There have been a few questions that have come in about a specific provider. And so any of those.

558

00:55:51.869 --> 00:55:58.469

We will address directly with those individuals directly after.

559

00:55:58.469 --> 00:56:11.280

Uh, the, uh, the webinar, I don't want to get into any specific providers on, um, on the webinar. So appreciate the questions though and we will definitely follow up.

560

00:56:11.280 --> 00:56:16.619

Um, and there was a question about, um.

561

00:56:16.619 --> 00:56:22.469

Considerations of urban versus rural in the transportation rate study, which is.

562

00:56:22.469 --> 00:56:29.760

A really good question and I know the conversation happened with Mercer and there was feedback in that area.

563

00:56:29.760 --> 00:56:42.449

Um, so we will follow up in writing on that question. I want to make sure that I get the details correct from Mercer and what they looked at during the rate study to come up with the, the standardize rate.

564

00:57:02.280 --> 00:57:07.829

This is Here's a question here regarding.

565

00:57:07.829 --> 00:57:11.099

And we get this question quite frequently.

566

00:57:11.099 --> 00:57:15.690

Um, so we want to make sure that, while we're on the call, we have a chance to kind of talk it through because.

567

00:57:15.690 --> 00:57:20.460

Um, it is, it's not a neat and tidy answer as it seems.

568

00:57:22.590 --> 00:57:26.550

Sorry, if you want to hear my voice, I'm going to have to take a drink there and.

569

00:57:26.550 --> 00:57:30.599

The, and it's about.

570

00:57:30.599 --> 00:57:36.030

Transportation services funding today and.

571

00:57:36.030 --> 00:57:40.650

If so many individuals are not able to access their transportation services.

572

00:57:40.650 --> 00:57:44.010

So, what happens to that funding that has.

573

00:57:44.010 --> 00:57:51.630

Has been appropriated and so any, any funding that is not utilized.

574

00:57:51.630 --> 00:57:56.250

By individuals that has been appropriated.

575

00:57:56.250 --> 00:58:01.349

The division for these services would show.

576

00:58:01.349 --> 00:58:04.409

In a in a lab.

577

00:58:04.409 --> 00:58:09.630

Meaning that we didn't use it, and it could carry forward if the general assembly.

578

00:58:09.630 --> 00:58:16.920

Permitted to be used for the next year. The problem is that we don't know what we're going to lap during.

579

00:58:16.920 --> 00:58:21.090

Um, the formation of the budget process.

580

00:58:21.090 --> 00:58:26.610

And so, right now they're making their budget recommendations based on the governor's recommendations.

581

00:58:26.610 --> 00:58:32.820

And we won't be until the end of this fiscal year until, and knowing all of the bills that come in.

582

00:58:32.820 --> 00:58:39.150

Until the end of June, we can make projections and we can understand kind of.

583

00:58:39.150 --> 00:58:43.139

What is and what's not being utilized and, um.

584

00:58:43.139 --> 00:58:46.829

Make educated guesses.

585

00:58:46.829 --> 00:58:51.389

Projection but there's other factors that go into this.

586

00:58:51.389 --> 00:58:56.219

The original budget that is given to us is based upon.

587

00:58:56.219 --> 00:59:00.599

Um, a projection as well and those projections include.

588

00:59:00.599 --> 00:59:05.550

Um, how utilization levels from previous years.

589

00:59:05.550 --> 00:59:10.170

And so we know that in previous years, um.

590

00:59:10.170 --> 00:59:15.030

That even though we have this amount of services authorized.

591

00:59:15.030 --> 00:59:20.880

That only about 85% of those.

592

00:59:20.880 --> 00:59:26.940

Billed for and utilized and so the projections are based on.

593

00:59:26.940 --> 00:59:31.619

The actual utilization of services and not the amount that's been.

594

00:59:31.619 --> 00:59:34.769

Been authorized, so that piece plays into it.

595

00:59:34.769 --> 00:59:38.250

The other part is that.

596

00:59:38.250 --> 00:59:41.880

During the past few years.

597

00:59:41.880 --> 00:59:45.599

We have experienced growth.

598

00:59:45.599 --> 00:59:50.309

And and then what is tightening our budget and.

599

00:59:50.309 --> 00:59:53.940

So, you would expect if there's a very low utilization.

600

00:59:53.940 --> 01:00:00.989

Because people aren't able to access the care that there would be a large left in leftover funds for the next year. Um.

601

01:00:00.989 --> 01:00:05.550

That however is not the case because, um.

602

01:00:05.550 --> 01:00:10.110

And based on our projection so far, that doesn't seem to be the case.

603

01:00:10.110 --> 01:00:14.010

And the reason is that there is.

604

01:00:14.010 --> 01:00:19.829

They hire increase in in need.

605

01:00:19.829 --> 01:00:25.710

That's been building up and has been kind of taken care of through.

606

01:00:25.710 --> 01:00:30.570

You through individuals, maybe not using some services.

607

01:00:30.570 --> 01:00:36.420

In the past few years, but what it boils down to is individuals in the program.

608

01:00:36.420 --> 01:00:40.349

And in our services are living longer.

609

01:00:40.349 --> 01:00:45.510

And they're staying in the community longer. It's a great thing but that means they probably.

610

01:00:45.510 --> 01:00:49.710

Over the years, if needed a little bit more care and, um.

611

01:00:49.710 --> 01:00:52.829

And that has increased.

612

01:00:52.829 --> 01:00:56.130

Utilization for for current individuals, so.

613

01:00:56.130 --> 01:01:05.070

Over the years, there has not been money appropriated for increased need of current people in the program and people who have been historically in the program.

614

01:01:05.070 --> 01:01:10.260

And it's, it's caught up with us. We'll just call it that so.

615

01:01:10.260 --> 01:01:14.070

There is in our budget recommendation for next year.

616

01:01:14.215 --> 01:01:21.835

A recommendation to set that straight so approximately 40Million dollars of a request to say,

617

01:01:21.835 --> 01:01:26.215

we have an increased need among individuals who've been in the program historically,

618

01:01:26.875 --> 01:01:29.184

not only new individuals who are coming in,

619

01:01:29.184 --> 01:01:29.454

but.

620

01:01:30.030 --> 01:01:35.130

Um, the care plans is increased and people are saying in the program longer, which is a good thing.

621

01:01:35.130 --> 01:01:38.340

So, while you would think that.

622

01:01:38.340 --> 01:01:41.880

It kind of straight.

623

01:01:41.880 --> 01:01:44.880

It must be we'll see it is.

624

01:01:44.880 --> 01:01:48.719

A mathematical equation of.

625

01:01:48.719 --> 01:01:55.019

Higher utilization in some areas, historical growth in other areas.

626

01:01:55.019 --> 01:01:58.860

And so we really tried to.

627

01:01:58.860 --> 01:02:02.039

Um, help our general assembly.

628

01:02:02.039 --> 01:02:06.900

Partners understand in the process that even though.

629

01:02:06.900 --> 01:02:10.199

We are utilizing our entire budget.

630

01:02:10.199 --> 01:02:15.570

There are so major access to care issues. We have to tell that story in a very careful way to say.

631

01:02:15.570 --> 01:02:20.219

It may seem on the surface.

632

01:02:20.219 --> 01:02:26.219

That is individuals aren't able to access care that there should be a lot of leftover money.

633

01:02:26.219 --> 01:02:30.239

Um, but that's not the case, because there's an increased need in other areas.

634

01:02:30.239 --> 01:02:35.010

So, we really the waiting list information that Sheila has.

635

01:02:35.010 --> 01:02:39.269

The individual stories, the individual advocacy that happens.

636

01:02:39.269 --> 01:02:47.789

With elected officials, that's really important because it takes the full picture for our partners to help understand that.

637

01:02:47.789 --> 01:02:55.889

That somewhat complicated budgeting issue to really appreciate that question. Thank you.

638

01:02:55.889 --> 01:02:59.760

I know there are some other questions in here and I really.

639

01:02:59.760 --> 01:03:02.789

Question so I appreciate it.

640

01:03:02.789 --> 01:03:06.449

The time that you all have given us.

641

01:03:06.449 --> 01:03:11.070  
And don't want to say that.

642  
01:03:11.070 --> 01:03:16.650  
Uh, if forever hold your peace, we want this to be the beginning of a conversation.

643  
01:03:16.650 --> 01:03:24.750  
About not only how do we advocate together for the potential solutions that we have and recommendations that we have right now.

644  
01:03:24.750 --> 01:03:33.630  
But how do we move forward with other recommendations together? Um, so we will take the feedback that we have been.

645  
01:03:33.630 --> 01:03:39.989  
Uh, that we've received here, um, as well as the questions, we didn't have time to answer.

646  
01:03:39.989 --> 01:03:46.019  
And we will provide that in summary document to everyone as we post the reporting webinar.

647  
01:03:46.019 --> 01:03:52.440  
And then we will also take that feedback into account and keep everyone updated.

648  
01:03:52.440 --> 01:03:59.099  
Through the work as the St Louis transportation committee as well as on a state wide basis.

649  
01:03:59.099 --> 01:04:02.250  
As we move forward to find a solution.

650  
01:04:02.250 --> 01:04:05.489  
So, I must my.

651  
01:04:05.489 --> 01:04:10.380  
Colleagues have anything to add. I just want to just think everyone again and so you to have a great night.

652  
01:04:12.750 --> 01:04:19.559

I just wanted to ask cat if you would leave the webinar open for a few minutes. So if people have questions.

653

01:04:19.559 --> 01:04:24.570

To type in and didn't have a chance to get it done yet that they can still do. So.

654

01:04:24.570 --> 01:04:28.199

Thank you thank you.