

Governor's Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities Meeting

June 14, 2007
Modern Maturity Center – Ballroom
1121 Forrest Avenue
Dover, DE 19904

9:00 am – 11:00 am

MINUTES

In attendance: Andrea Guest, Renata Henry, Sandy Johnson, Rita Landgraf, Pam Maier, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Secretary Vince Meconi, Guy Perrotti, Marianne Smith, Sandy Tuttle

Staff: Becca Dougherty, Steven Holochwost, Tracy Mann, Mary Kate McLaughlin

Meeting called to order at 9:17 am.

Approval of March 26th Minutes

- Sandy T. moved to approve, Pam seconded; passed unanimously
- **Commission Updates**
- Member Updates
 - Secretary Meconi welcomed new member, Guy Perrotti, Director of Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities
 - New Appointees
 - Governor Minner approved the names of new appointees. Members will be invited to participate. When they agree, the Commission members will be notified.
- Status of Contracts
 - Commission Staffing, Rita
 - Contract for Commission staffing is managed through the Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware. Tracy, Becca, and Steven have been assigned to this work. CDS staff arranges meeting locations and logistics for the meetings, coordinated the public comment meetings for the five-year goals, collected public comments, submitted the public comment summary, and is drafting the next five-year Commission plan. The contract has been extended through the end of the calendar year.
 - Respite plan, Tim Brooks
 - Tim Brooks reported on the work of the Delaware Caregiver Support Coalition, which was created in response to a 2003 CDS report on the need for services. Sandy T. and Easter Seals helped support the Coalition, which surveyed respite care delivery providers and service users. A second report in 2005 outlined those results. The Commission provided a grant to continue the Coalition work to develop a statewide respite care delivery service in

Delaware. The Coalition reviewed other state plans. A basic plan based on work in Nebraska has been developed and the Coalition is putting together a business plan to seek private funding. [Originally the intention was to use funding from the federal Lifespan Respite Care Act, which is not currently funded (there are indications it might be funded by the end of the year. For now, the group will pursue private funding.) Tim thanked everyone for working with the project.

- Rita asked if the drafted plan could come to the Commission in September for approval. Tim agreed.
- Medicaid Buy-in, Steve Groff (DMMA)
 - Commission members made funds available for the systems research to support the MBI project. The MBI program is scheduled to begin in April 2008, but systems work has to be done to support the program. DMMA has contracted with EDS to make systems changes to the MMIS. Work is on schedule and will be completed by June 30, 2007.
 - Pam asked if this systems work needs approval for funding in the legislative budget. Steve reported that the Commission has funded this systems work, which must be completed before MBI can be implemented. This is preliminary work that needs to be done prior to implementation of the MBI program to serve individuals, which will be funded by the legislature. The programs complement each other.
 - Rita clarified that the legislative funding that Pam referred to will set up services that start in April 2008.
 - \$223,700 is the total requested amount in the budget, which is tied to the Healthy Life Fund, requiring an increase in the cigarette taxes.
 - Kyle asked about the federal Medicaid infrastructure grant. Steve responded that that is also a complementary program. This funding would not need a state match and can be up to \$500,000.
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), Renee Bean
 - Conference
 - Conference organizers worked with over 200 direct support professionals and received support from a variety of agencies and the state, including AARP and the Developmental Disabilities Council.
 - Highlights included 5 awards to DSPs, proclamations from the Governor and House Representative Amick, and nationally recognized guest speakers.
 - Workforce credentialing
 - The Commission members funded a CDS project as part of a national movement to increase the professionalism of the direct support field. Renee is currently researching work around the country and across the state to introduce a system of credentials for entry-level direct support staff. The work will develop or identify a preliminary core curriculum for DSPs, which would be certified and portable from employer to employer. An advisory group, with guidance from the Workforce Development Subcommittee, is collaborating to identify a cross-disability core curriculum.

- Pam suggested a representative for professional regulations from DelTech be involved in the professional standards.
 - Renee is following up with additional members of the committee, and currently seeking new members who are interested, including people with disabilities and family members, DSPs, and other professional regulations experts.
- **Report on Public Comments to Draft Plan**
 - Comments were collected at public meetings, via email, voice message, and letters.
 - The full version of the public comment report distribute to commission members is on the Commission website. Members of the public were given a summary of the report.
 - Additions and revision to the plan will be made by CDS staff members.
 - The plan will include a note that states the Subcommittees will be responding to the public comments in their ongoing work and the timeline will be updated as appropriate.
 - Commission members decided how to respond to each public comment, and the notes are below.
- Goal 1: Ensure a sufficient number of safe, affordable, integrated, and accessible housing options in Delaware for indiaivluas with disabilities.
 - Public comments
 - *Definitions needed:* residential services, group homes
 - *Clarifiaction needed:* rental/ownership issues, timelines, and deadlines for waiting lists, assessment
 - Recommendations for collaboration
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - Daniese stated that many of the items included in the public comments are included in the work of the subcommittee.
 - The members will discuss rural development and the recommendation to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture.
 - Subcommittee co-chairs will take the recommendation back to the Subcommittee members and review the feasibility of the recommendations.
 - Pam proposed holding a roundtable for accessible 55+ housing, to include developers, builders, architects, and real estate agents. This will be included this as an action step in the plan.
 - Sandy J. reported that state housing authorities are working on using federal tax credits for this purpose. The Governor's housing conference will include a focus group on elderly housing needs.
 - Rita advised that some public recommendations can be included in the Assessment Subcommittee's future action steps.
- Goal 2: Implement a Money Follows the Person (MFP) program
 - Public comments
 - There should be a difference between the community and state-facility ombudsman
 - Commission member and staff responses

- This is intended. The report will be revised to reflect this intention.
- Goal 3: Establish a Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) program.
 - Public comments
 - *Clarification needed:* No objectives are listed.
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - The Employment Subcommittee will forward the action steps to CDS Commission staff.
 - The report will read, "Reflect the [forwarded] plan" as an action step.
 - The report will include "Apply for Medicaid Buy-In Infrastructure grant".
 - The Joint Finance Committee has a one-pager regarding MBI. This information can be shared as reference.
- Goal 4: Ensure that reliable transportation services and choice are available.
 - Public comments
 - Public support
- Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive, flexible, consumer driven health care system that would more effectively facilitate community living.
 - Public comments
 - *Definitions needed:* functional need, scope of services, medical necessity, name-brand drug coverage, medical costs, augmentative communication devices, personal attendant services, and eligibility
 - *Clarification needed:* dental services availability
 - Community-based training for medical and technical workers is needed.
 - State Department-level Grant coordinator is needed.
 - Include preventative services in the goal.
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - *Clarifications* will be included in the Commission plan draft.
 - Pam Maier suggested the State Dental Director's Commission [sic] might integrate work into Commission work. They have traveling dental services. Pam will follow-up with the name of the group.
 - Many of the recommendations are included in the action steps. They are not reflected in the goals, but are reflected in the action steps and in ongoing Subcommittee work.
 - Subcommittee members will explore the definition recommendations with Subcommittee members.
 - Commission members did not approve adding the recommended definition regarding name-brand drugs.
 - State Department-level grant coordinator exists.
 - Sandy J. described the current dilemma in ensuring appropriate community-based training. The direct support professionals cannot schedule the on-site training that is needed because the training is not offered on a flexible schedule. The Workforce Subcommittee should address this issue as well.
 - Subcommittee action steps will reflect the need to increase awareness of existing preventative services.
- Goal 6: Ensure the fiscal and human resources necessary to develop and retain a professional workforce.
 - Public comments

- DSP salaries should reflect the work. They often do not.
 - Some agencies have not increased wages for years.
 - Set minimum starting salary at \$11.50/hr.
 - Differences between community-based and facility-based training and work need to be maintained.
 - Some agencies prevent employees from associating and organizing.
 - Management training is needed.
 - Jamie Wolfe supported a “grandfathering” program for experienced DSPs during the meeting.
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - Pam Maier believes the JFC increases funding each year for DSP wage increases. She asked about the accountability of the provider agencies to the state for doing this. Subcommittee staff will report on agency accountability vs. funding allocated at the next meeting. The members need to do research on this.
 - Commission report and Subcommittee action steps address management-training issues.
 - Rita commented that in 2003 when public comments were collected regarding HR 90, no comments were made by direct support staff regarding the direct support field. The increase the number of public comments on this subject indicates that awareness of the problem has increased considerably.
- Goal 7: Develop common assessment domains for eligibility and care planning.
 - Public comments
 - Use the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) “supports intensity scale” tool.
 - Does not reflect the need of people with mental individuals (sic).
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - Rita explained that using a tool from the AAIDD is not a cross-disability action.
 - Mental disability advocates are active in the Subcommittee and assessment tools will reflect their needs.
- Goal 8: The State will provide funds and resources for long-term support for all people with disabilities to maintain employment.
 - Public comments
 - Three percent employment rate increase is not enough.
 - Coordinate cross-agency employment efforts.
 - Increase number of people with disabilities employed by the State.
 - Long-term retirement planning should be included.
 - Non-credit courses and opportunities should be increased.
 - Commission member and staff responses
 - Andrea Guest thinks no increase is ever enough, but they sought to quantify a goal.
 - Subcommittee members are working with cross-agency wanting lists.
 - Subcommittee members are working with DelTech to increase the number and availability of non-credit training courses, certificate courses, and for-credit courses. These courses are being marketed specifically to transitioning high

- Tim Brooks suggested that the Health Care Subcommittee discuss the possibility of making the Waiver a priority objective.
- Commission members voted to clarify the priorities of the Health Care Subcommittee. The objective is scheduled for FY 2008 and will be supported by Commission members, as needed and appropriate.

Review and adoption of strategic plan

The Commission Report draft includes:

- Letter from Rita and Vince
- Commission Member and Staff List
- Subcommittee Charges
- Rita discussed the organization of the final product.
 - Organization: Background on each Subcommittee and Subcommittee goals will be a lasting document.
 - Timeline and actions steps will be included in a matrix that can be revised and updated in the next five years.
 - Rita highlighted that this action plan will be constantly revised and updated. The most current timeline will be posted on the Commission website.
- Renata Henry believes that the report reflects the cross-disability emphasis of the Commission and suggested that the report be copyedited for errors.
- Tony Horstman believes that the report should include the parties accountable for action steps and include an emphasis on quality control. The plan itself will address quality control and the timeline will assign action steps to appropriate, accountable parties.
- Pam Maier asked if the Commission report needs to be formalized through a Bill. Rita and Vince responded that it does not.
- Sandy J. moved to adopt the Commission plan and report. Daniese seconded. All Commission members were in favor of adopting the plan with the additions and clarifications discussed today.
- The press conference is scheduled for July 17, 2007 in Dover in the Governor's press room.

Other Business

- Future Commission meeting schedule was disseminated.
- Sandy J. asked about the potential for additional funding to support the work of the Commission. Secretary Meconi clarified that the priorities have not been funded and probably will not be, based on the State fiscal situation.

Public comments

Doyle Dobbins thanked the Commission members for their dedication, recognized the long challenge this work, and asked that the work continues.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.