

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

June 22, 2006

Delaware Agricultural Museum

**I. Welcome & Approval of Minutes**

In attendance: Secretary Meconi, Department of Health & Social Services, Co-Chair; Rita Landgraf, Co-Chair; Daniese McMullin-Powell, State Council for Persons with Disabilities; Michael Gamel-McCormick, Center for Disabilities Studies; Joe Connor, Governor's Advisory Council for Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Renata Henry, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Stephen Kingsberry, Delaware Transit Corporation; Andrea Guest, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Marianne Smith, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services; Sandy Tuttle, Easter Seals; Allan Zaback, Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Meeting called to order at 9:14 am.  
Minutes were approved.

**II. Commission update**

- Commission members received a packet containing the charges and goals for all Committees. Rita Landgraf advised all Commission members to review the goals of the Committees, even if Commission members are not direct participants of the Committee. She noted that these goals are very action oriented and will be included in the Governor's Commission five-year comprehensive plan that will be created by July 2007.
- Rita announced staffing changes for Committees. Kyle Hodges will staff the Healthcare Committee. Pat Maichle will staff the Money Follows the Person Committee.
- Chairs and staff for all Committees will convene monthly. This will help with dialogue and encourage the Committees to work from a common template.
- The Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) will host a Commission webpage via the CDS website. This webpage will provide information about Full Commission and Committee meetings including agendas, handouts, and minutes.

**III. Real Choice Systems Transformation Grant Application**

- Commission members received information about the Real Choice Systems Transformation Grant Application. Michael Gamel-McCormick highlighted the four goals of the proposal. Michael also thanked the Departments and divisions that were involved in collaborating with CDS to complete this grant

application. A planning group was responsible for identifying goals and objectives. CDS will hear in September about the funding.

#### **IV. Funding updates**

- Commission staff for \$50,000
  - Tracy Mann at CDS is now responsible for supporting the Commission and the Chairs and Staff group. CDS is also responsible for managing the Commission website. A new staff person, Michelle Hess, will attend to these responsibilities and assist in the strategic planning process. Secretary Meconi explained that Mary Kate McLaughlin will continue to support the Commission for the Governor's office. She is absent because she had an important meeting today.
  
- Consultant for \$50,000 for assessment
  - Alan Ackman presented later in the meeting.
  
- Respite care program development \$50,000
  - Update will be provided at the next meeting.
  
- Pedestrian signals for \$20,000
  - Stephen Kingsberry reported that the plans for an accessible pedestrian signal were put on hold. The project consists of changing more than signal and is much bigger than originally anticipated. Stephen recommended that the money allocated for this project by the Commission be transferred to the Medicaid Buy-In initiative.
  
- Workforce training program \$35,000
  - Michael Gamel-McCormick reported that Renata Henry and Renee Bean met recently to discuss developing a training program inclusive of the needs for all direct support workers employed by the state and by state-authorized providers. Curriculum is to be developed within a year, and the workforce committee will provide oversight.
  
- Direct Support Professional Conference \$12,000
  - Michael reported that the first Conference for Direct Support Professionals in Delaware was held on May 4, 2006. Attendance was recorded at 303, which confirmed the need for the event. The Commission members received a final report about the event and a copy of the story about the conference that appeared in the Wilmington News Journal. The event got good press coverage, including a follow-up profile about a direct support professional. Final accounting is not complete, but it looks like the conference may have run a surplus. The final accounting report and attendee feedback report will be posted and is expected to create a foundation for future work plans. Michael thanked the Commission for their support of the conference.

- Remaining reserve for \$33,000 for Medicaid Buy In
  - Secretary Meconi reported that the reserve funds allocated for MBI will begin the process for systems change, but will not complete it. The Federal government will match Delaware's allocations. That puts the total funds, as of the beginning of this meeting, at more than \$60,000. That is one-third of the total cost for the MBI infrastructure. That sets a system in place by July 1, 2006.
  - Rita moved to allocate the funds from the traffic signal project that was put on hold to be transferred to the MBI initiative per Stephen Kingsberry's recommendation. Stephen Kingsberry seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. That increases the funds available for MBI to more than \$100,000. The initiative is, at this time, half-funded.

## V. Review of Subcommittee activities

- Assessment
  - Goal 1 was to develop an assessment resource by the fall of 2006, which began in late March with the hiring of Alan Ackman, VieBridge, Inc.
  - Commission members and members of the public received Alan Ackman's presentation materials. Alan presented a few questions to the Commission that he plans on answering:
    - How can the Commission support assessment infrastructure?
    - How can the Commission assess most efficiently?
    - How can the Commission get a better picture of who is being served?
  - These questions can be answered by first answering:
    - What is the delivery model?
    - Who is being served?
    - What supports are already there?
  - Alan concluded that the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Kids Department should collaborate on these issues. Assessment tools are already in place. The reasons for their design must be understood.
  - Renata Henry applauded Alan for highlighting the need to identify gaps in assessment and services.
  - Sandy Tuttle suggested that the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) be included because there are many people with disabilities who need rental housing. Joe Connor added that most rental housing does not fall under the DSHA and the private market needs to be included in plans.
  - Daniese McMullin-Powell also questioned how people with physical disabilities fit into the system and whether Delaware should take advantage of RAINDS (sic) data from Medicaid.
  - Michael Gamel-McCormick reinforced Alan's statement of "be careful what you assess" to be mindful of how data collected will be used.

- Alan stated that the creation of a good IT infrastructure can overcome silos within state government.
- *Housing*
  - The Delaware State Housing Authority and the Homeless Planning Council are investigating how to assess the need for rental housing. The DSHA is attempting to incorporate people with disabilities at no cost. The major barrier is securing full participation by state agency partners. Sandy recommends that the Committee work reemphasize the state agencies' role in securing housing for people with disabilities. Each pertinent division should designate a staff member to the Housing Committee who will attend meetings and understands the importance of this need. Sandy is working on strengthening Committee membership.
  - Daniese McMullin-Powell explained that another barrier is the lack of a centralized information database. In addition, DSHA has been helpful, however other housing authorities do not anticipate in the Housing Committee projects.
  - In order to fill out the strategic planning matrix, the group will first focus on accomplishments and past activities.
- *Healthcare*
  - Joe Connor thanked Kyle Hodges for staffing the Healthcare Committee.
  - Joe announced that a Healthcare Committee meeting would take place after the Commission meeting. The goals of the Healthcare Committee will be tweaked at the meeting following the Commission meeting.
  - Joe reported a few key issues on which the Healthcare Committee is focused. Children with disabilities are sent out of Delaware to receive treatment. The Committee members also focus on fixing "slippage", or ensuring mental health and substance abuse health insurance parity. Also, healthcare programs should be assessed for using methods that promote self-determination.
- *Transportation*
  - The goals of the Transportation Committee have been expanded.
  - Transportation Committee members are working with the Sunset Committee and responding the Sunset Committee recommendations. In addition, the Committee, in response to the recommendation of the Chairs and staff, is identifying options outside of DART to improve transportation initiatives, including increasing the accessibility of taxi service and airport shuttles.
  - More people needed on committee.
- *Employment*
  - Andrea Guest reported on the Johnson & Johnson grant for supported employment in collaboration with DSAMH.

- Meeting with the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services to update and review supported employment for people with cognitive disabilities
  - The Business Summit of the Virginia Commonwealth and Bank of America hosted a discussion about employment for people with cognitive disabilities. This meeting was attended by a variety of employers.
  - Medicaid Buy-In, even with more than \$100,000 still is far from the goal. Representative Bethany Hall-Long is championing this issue and is interested. She suggested that the Committee draft a resolution looking forward into the next fiscal year. Options for this resolution include proposing the original suggestion for funding for both infrastructure and implementation of the MBI, asking for funding infrastructure only, or taking a philosophical approach to encouraging MBI. Either way, the resolution could be sunsetted within three years and the state could pot out anytime it wants to. Bethany Hall-Long is exploring the options and will help determine the best resolution.
  - In order to implement any Employment Committee initiatives, public education is crucial. As well, other Committees should be aware of how MBI affects their initiatives.
  - Doyle Dobbins added that the Joint Finance Committee voted on epilogue language to keep the MBI concept alive. The JFC wants a report by November 15, 2006, about the fiscal impact. Kyle Hodges noted that the reports were already conducted by the Lewin Group.
- *Workforce Development*
    - Michael reported that the Workforce Committee is producing educational materials for legislators. Also in creation is the curriculum development initiative in collaboration between CDS and DSAMH. Committee members are reviewing the goals of the group for the five-year strategic planning process. The next meeting will be on July 11, 2006.
  - *Money Follows The Person*
    - Pat Maichle reported that the MFP report is complete, but the initiative is thwarted by inactivity. Several members have been meeting to discuss the next steps. The next meeting is on July 13, 2006 at the AARP offices in Wilmington. Rita suggested that the MFP Committee take over some Assessment Committee tasks that would better fit under the MFP charges.
    - Pat also announced a ground-breaking ceremony for a universally-designed house built by Steve Tull and a Department of Labor recruitment flyer indicating that people with disabilities need to be trained for jobs that are available.
    - Marianne Smith stated that a grant for Money Follows the Person pilot should be announced in August.

## **VI. Public Comment**

- Secretary Meconi thanked Dick Patterson for his advocacy efforts as a member of the commission. Dick resigned due to moving out of Delaware.
- Michael Gamel-McCormick moved to transfer the balance of the Direct Support Professionals Conference surplus toward MBI. Motion carried.
- Tim Brooks, President of The Arc of Delaware thanked everyone involved in planning the DDDS Family Support Medicaid Waiver. He is extremely disappointed that it did not happen this year.
- Susan Ccyk thanked Joe Connor for considering the medically fragile children in Delaware in the Healthcare Committee initiatives. She reported that while the numbers of children being sent out of the State have decreased by half, the State still sends children out of state for treatment. Susan suggested that a longitudinal study is conducted concerning this issue. She has not seen one recently.
- Kyle Hodges suggested that members from the Kids Department join the healthcare committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:41 am.

Minutes submitted by Tracy Mann, Center for Disabilities Studies.