

APPROVED

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

September 26, 2007
The Goodwill Center
300 East Lea Boulevard
Wilmington, DE 19802
9:00 am – 11:00 am

APPROVED MINUTES

Members in attendance: Secretary Vince Meconi, Rita Landgraf, Sandy Tuttle, Guy Perrotti, Marianne Smith, Andrea Guest, Michael Gamel-McCormick

Guests in attendance: Renee Bean, Center for Disabilities Studies; Andria Viola, Senator Henry's office; Joyce Pinkett, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance; Tim Brooks, Center for Disabilities Studies; Kim Brockenbrough, Delaware State House Authority

Staff in attendance: Tracy Mann, Center for Disabilities Studies; Mary Kate McLaughlin, Governor Minner's office

I. Welcome and Approval of June 14th Minutes

- Meeting called to order at 9:12 am.
- Secretary Meconi welcomed Andria Viola from Senator Henry's office
- Minutes were held for approval until the end of the meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

II. Follow-up on other items

- 211 legislation update, Drew Langloh, United Way of Delaware
 - Drew Langloh was unable to attend this morning due to going to the hospital where his wife is having a baby. Commission members wished his family the best and will try to get him to the next meeting for an update on the 211 legislation.

III. Commission Updates/Status of Contracts

- Commission staffing contract update, Rita Landgraf
 - Rita gave an update on the status of the Commission staffing. Becca Dougherty has left the Center for Disabilities Studies to work for the State of Maryland in the tourism office. Tracy Mann will be handling the Commission logistics until the end of this calendar year. Rita, Vince, Mary Kate, and Michael Gamel-McCormick will need to discuss ways to continue the staffing of the Commission.
- Respite Care report contract update, Tim Brooks
 - Tim Brooks provided an overview of the work of the Delaware Caregiver's Coalition around the draft plan for a statewide respite care system. The coalition has been working on respite issues for many years. Lisa Becker, a

graduate student from the Center for Disabilities Studies, has also been working on this project. At the last meeting of the coalition, the draft plan and budget were finalized. The coalition has developed a three-year plan that could be funded privately by foundation. Once the final changes have been made, the coalition will finalize and look at path forward. The path forward will include looking for private funding sources for around \$500,000 for three years. To sustain this program, we will need support from the state or the Federal Lifespan Respite Care Act (signed in 2006 but still not funded, although some funding is still possible). The Act would require a public entity to apply to provide services for a program very similar to what is being developed by the coalition. At the next Commission meeting, the draft plan and budget will be presented to the members. Revisions can be made after that meeting, and the final report will be submitted to the Commission by the end of the year.

- Medicaid Buy-In contract update, Joyce Pinkett
 - Changes are being made to the process to provide the proper level of services. MBI is an option that consumers can elect to participate in. Policies and procedures to define the key points in the program are being developed. A state plan amendment to submit to CMS is also in process – this is required for the program to start. The work is on track to start in April. A decision was made to place this program with the SSI program due to the connections that already exist in that department.
 - Rita asked if materials would be sent to consumers to make them aware of this program. Joyce said information would definitely be available to individuals in the spring.
 - Andrea asked about staffing required for the program. Joyce said that the planning for ramp-up would be handled for the limited number of individuals who will be initially eligible for the program.
 - Pat Maichle asked if public comment would be required for the state plan amendment. Joyce said the plan is required 6 months of review, so this process will need to be started very soon.
 - Michael asked that an update be also provided at the December meeting on the status of the MBI program.
- Workforce credentialing contract update, Renee Bean
 - Renee updated the Commission on the status of the credentialing/ curriculum program. Bill Tapp, from the College of Direct Support, is going to be hosting a dialogue about the program next week. As they have reviewed curricula from around the nation, they selected the College of Direct Support as an option for Delaware and requested Bill Tapp's participation in a discussion about Delaware services. The committee is still looking to see what is appropriate for Delaware. They have also talked with direct support professionals who have received the training. The College of Direct Support is also available to direct support professionals, training administrators, families, and people with disabilities. In December, the committee will make a recommendation to this committee on the program.

- Michael encouraged others to attend the discussion with Bill Tapp, especially the division directors or staff from their respective divisions. A discussion has started at the University of Delaware about how this program could fit in Associates Degrees and higher. This program would allow us to reach more people effectively.
- Andrea stated that DVR is now requiring that all of their VR counselors are required to have Masters degrees, and some of them have achieved degrees through online courses and have found the program successful.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- Employment, Andrea Guest
 - Andrea highlighted that Joyce has updated everyone on MBI, which is the priority goal of the Employment Subcommittee.
 - The next meeting is Thursday, October 4th at 10 am at DOL in Wilmington. Members will discuss more details about the MBI program.
 - At the last meeting, discussion was held about where to focus as a subcommittee since MBI is under way. Some work in Connecticut through a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant undertook a multimedia advertising campaign about individuals with disabilities going to work. The subcommittee is considering focusing on getting the word out to employers about the hiring of people with disabilities – across all disabilities groups. Funding would be considered through a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, as Connecticut did, to create a public relations campaign. Victor will send Tracy the link for the Connecticut website to be shared with the Commission members. [The web link is: <http://www.connect-ability.com>.]
 - The state selective program will also be a discussion, as the state is the biggest hirer of people with disabilities in Delaware. Rita has requested that this be a priority, because of the changes to the state program that The Arc works through has lost two slots when two people have left positions.
 - Pat also asked that they review the process for reviewing applicants due to some concern over applying online and prioritizing applicants.
 - Kyle has offered that the State Council for Persons with Disabilities would like to collaborate on the Selective Placement Program, as this is a priority of their council. Andrea said that one of the biggest challenges is training about the program to state employees. While the support happens on the manager level, the hiring managers and personnel staff need to be educated on the program.
- Money Follows the Person, Joyce Pinkett
 - Every subcommittee and topic covered in the Commission report is connected to the Money Follows the Person program, which provides a vision for how to move the state forward. The MFP committee is developing the protocol for the MFP program, and subgroups of the MFP working committee have been assigned. An administrative notice will need to be put out soon.
 - Many partners have become involved in this work, including the University of Delaware, housing, a nursing home, and others that have helped the committee move right along.

- Implementation is on schedule for April. System changes need to be in the eligibility system and the claims processing services.
- Mathematica in also provided technical assistance nationally. CMS has a project coordinator and many others are assisting in this project. \$175 billion dollars has been allocated.
- The protocol should be developed by November 30th. Materials will also need to be developed to include Quality Assurance tools and other policies and procedures.
- CMS will review the protocol and asked for any changes that need to be made. The Clearinghouse has reviewed the progress so far and was happy about the work happening Delaware.
- Workforce Development, Michael Gamel-McCormick
 - Michael Gamel-McCormick gave an update on the work of the committee. Ginger Nobles has been instrumental in her role as co-chair; and Renee has also served as the subcommittee staff.
 - Renee Bean gave an update on a trip of direct support professionals to Washington DC to advocate for HR 1279, the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act of 2007.
 - Sandy Tuttle added that the three individuals from Easter Seals who went to DC came back very enthusiastic. Ginger Nobles has also been working on the Easter Seals to include direct support professionals in the strategic planning for the organization. Sandy will share the value of this involvement with other providers and nonprofits.
 - The Workforce Recruitment and Retention Project has trained twelve direct support professionals as leaders to begin developing an association of Direct Support Professionals. A video was made about the leaders, and a link to the video is available on the CDS website.
 - Rita asked that the videos be linked on the commission webpage.
 - CDS, in partnership with DMMA, recently received a grant for technical assistance from The Direct Service Resource Center offered. This will provide up to 500 technical assistance hours to help develop a coalition to develop strategies to address the workforce issues in Delaware. The coalition will include DSPs, service providers, people with disabilities, and family members.
 - Michael added that the TA grant would also help address all of the objectives of the subcommittee.
- Housing, Sandy Tuttle
 - The subcommittee has taken a two-month hiatus. The work with the Delaware State Housing Authority has been successful and the key thing is researching the current state of housing.
 - Kim Brockenbrough added that the statewide housing needs assessment will be completed and releasing it in November. Public comment will be solicited until that time. The challenge will be to include more people with disabilities in the process and include that information in the process.
 - The next meeting will be October 9th – 2-4 pm at the Appoquinimink State Service Center.

- Health Care, Tim Brooks/Kyle Hodges
 - Tim reported that some changes to Medicaid may remove up to 1300 people from the DDDS services for day habilitation programs, which is over 31 million dollars (which is a dollar for dollar match with Medicaid). Connie Hughes from DelARF gave more details on this change, which uses more of a medical model. The change would allow only services that can show someone is being rehabilitated.
 - An amendment on the SCHIP bill asked for a moratorium on this change. The SCHIP bill did pass, but not at the level to avoid a presidential veto, which has been stated by President Bush as his chosen tactic. Many individuals have been commenting to Medicaid, and activities to outreach to Delaware's delegation in Washington. The greater costs to the state with this change need to be documented and shared nationally.
 - The health care committee is reviewing the timeline from Goal 9 and would like to regroup on Objective B. This will be the focal point of the next meeting. Goal 10 will also be reviewed.
 - The subcommittee will schedule meetings before the December commission meeting.
- Assessment/Discharge Planning, Rita Landgraf
 - Many groups are involved in this effort, including Christiana Care, nursing facilities, state representation. DDDS and DSAAPD are two divisions that Rita requested participation in this committee. Kim Brockenbrough staffs this committee and is connected with the Interagency Council On Homelessness.
 - This work will connect with the MFP protocol as well, and Rita can share the draft plan with Joyce Pinkett. Joyce suggested the implementation of this process could be included in the MFP as a pilot of this planning process.
 - In early 2008, the work will be shared with the Commission.
 - The next meeting has not been scheduled, but an email will be sent to the group. Marianne Smith and Guy Perrotti will be added to the email list to encourage a division staff member to participate in this committee.
- Transportation
 - Since Stephen Kingsberry and Bonnie Hitch were not able to attend, Rita gave an update that public hearings were held last week and Sunday service was the priority comment. Rita requested that a report is provided at the December meeting on the outcomes of those public meeting.

V. Future Meeting Schedule

- December 5, 2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Modern Maturity Center, Dover
- March 5, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, New Castle County
- June 12, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Kent County
- September 3, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, New Castle County
- December 3, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Kent County

VI. Other Business

VII. Public Comment

APPROVED

- Kyle asked about the MFP program. The first year of the match funding for the state was \$370,000, which included staffing for DMMA and DSAAPD. These positions are critical and some information on their status. Secretary Meconi
- The policy change for DSAAPD to pay family members for attendant services has been successful, and Kyle thanked the Commission members who support this change.
- Kyle also asked what the state doing around the Medicaid infrastructure changes that would cut some services. Marianne Smith updated that this change is a part of the Deficit Reduction Act. Currently individuals who are at home and receiving Medicaid are benefiting from the state plan. Comments are being made to CMS in partnership with Harry Hill. Kyle requested that information be shared with the public about the Department's comments and path forward.
- Connie Hughes added that individuals with mental health also potential for huge risk in lose of services because of changes to the definition of rehabilitation which would eliminate services for people needed maintenance.
- Tim Brooks provided a plug for the Family & Workplace Connection's respite care website that provides a database of providers for respite care. Thank you to DDC for providing that funding. Rita suggested connecting with Patty Blevins about the 211 system to see how that could connect to the respite database.
- Victor Orija advised commission members that Residents Rights Rally Day will be held on October 11, 2007 in Dover. The location is at the Sheraton and will be held 1:00-3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am

Minutes submitted by Tracy Mann