

Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Persons with Disabilities
Full Commission

January 31, 2007
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Modern Maturity Center for Disabilities Studies
Dover, Delaware

Commission members in attendance: Secretary Vince Meconi (Co-Chair), Rita Landgraf (Co-Chair), Sandy Tuttle, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Stephen Kingsberry, Andrea Guest, Marianne Smith, Renata Henry, Alan Zaback, Michael Gamel-McCormick.

Guests and staff in attendance: Tim Brooks (for Joe Connor), Bonnie Hitch (with Stephen Kingsberry), Tracy Mann, Mary Kate McLaughlin, Stephen Holochwost

I. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.
- The September minutes were approved as written.

II. Commission updates

- No appointees to fill the two open positions but hope to have in place by March retreat.
- Status of Contracts
 - Medicaid Buy-in infrastructure should be done no later than June 30th. New cost estimate means that the commission money will pay for 1/3 of the systems update and not 1/2 as intended.
 - Direct Service Professional curriculum project is in progress and should have a pilot in place this summer. An ongoing discussion is taking place by the Advisory Committee about the implementation for the providers and across the divisions.
 - The \$1,000 remainder of funds from the Direct Support Professionals Conference was voted on at a prior meeting to be returned to the Commission for Medicaid Buy-in. A motion passed to return the money to CDS for use for the 2007 conference.
 - For the respite care plan contract, the Delaware Caregivers Coalition met last week to begin developing a draft of a statewide service delivery system. The federal Lifespan Respite Care act passed and may bring more funding to Delaware for respite services.
 - Michael introduced Steven Holochwost as a member of CDS working on Commission staffing contract.

III. Timeline

- Secretary Meconi went through the handout highlighting important dates for Commission.
- Reminders will be sent to the commission members regarding the retreat.
- March – retreat for Commission members and subcommittee chairs and staff

- April – finalize the five-year plan
- May – public comment sessions in each county
- June – review public comments and make any changes needed
- July – product launch and public release

IV. Overview of compiled goals and objectives – Stephen Holochwost

- Stephen explained the changes and updates to the format of the final template for the Commission.
- *Employment*
 - No comments from Andrea, but she’d like to take a closer look and will send feedback by email.
- *Money Follows the Person*
 - No comments from Commission members at this time, but need to take a closer look and will send feedback by email.
- *Housing*
 - Sandy Tuttle felt that one thing missing from the template was the overriding goal, what the committee called “the vision”. Stephen assured the members that these pieces would be incorporated in the report narrative.
 - Daniese requested that the word “integrated” needs to be inserted in front of “housing options” in Goal I as “housing” itself is too broad to used without clarification.
 - Renata suggested the healthcare related objective section (IIC) be moved to the Healthcare committee because of the need to integrate out patient services into primary care services.
- *Healthcare*
 - Tim Brooks mentioned that there was a lot of discussion around sending children out of state for services unavailable in Delaware that are addressed in the goals and objectives.
 - Renata requested that Goal III relate to “diversion from the criminal justice system” and that the objectives need to be reviewed again, because C does not fit well with the overall goals and needs reviewed.
 - Kyle mentioned that the committee was still in the process of reviewing template, including the objectives.
 - Marianne requested that we make sure we do not miss the opportunity to educate the medical community on how to support people with disabilities, in ID.
 - Kyle mentioned that some of the issues are covered in goal, particularly related to the efforts of Dr. Tom Kelly.
 - Pat Maichle requested to change “PWD” to people with disabilities for the public documents.
- *Transportation*
 - Stephen Kingsberry was concerned about Goal I.F. because the challenge is that the group is covered by a separate union and collective bargaining agreement.
 - Renata requested that in Goal III.A. the language is changed from “mentally ill” to people first language “those with mental illness.”

- Rita added that employer sponsored transportation is a new possibility for Delaware to improve and increase services. Steven elaborated on the pilots that are being implemented for fixed and paratransit services.
- *Workforce*
 - Renata asked if there is a definition of a “direct support professional.” Michael answered that the committee has defined a DSP as one who works across divisions with people with disabilities and with public and private entities.
 - Marianne mentioned that from a wage perspective there is a difference with employment with the state and private providers. Michael responded that when coming up with this number, the committee took into consideration the state DSPs are well above this rate as it is.
 - John Reiff commented the committee has always focused on community-based providers.
 - Daniese added that the commission was formed to change policy and make the system better, so the members should not be impeded by any existing policies or regulations.
 - John Reiff added that IA should read minimum “starting” wage.
- *Assessment*
 - Assessment hired a consultant to pull together the template.
 - Sandy Tuttle mentioned that Goal III is a key part of housing.
 - Tim asked for clarification about Goal IV, because the state does a lot of disability fragmentation, but hoped this assessment system would not also fragment people based on their disability. Rita clarified that the goal is intended as written, but to look at common descriptors for planning across all of the divisions.
- The next step is to have subcommittees review the information presented before it goes to the
- Rita, Chairs and Staff will meet in February from 9-11am at CDS.
- Tracy Mann mentioned that the changes from the meeting today would be incorporated into the templates and sent to the committees for review prior to the Chairs and Staff meeting. She thanked the subcommittee members for their comments and hard work.

V. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be a retreat in March and Full Commission meeting in June.

VI. Other business

- JFC hearings through February and one third of the JFC are members are new. Medicaid Buy-In is part of Healthy Life Fund linked to an increase in cigarette and gas tax.

VII. Public Comment

- No comments from the public at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am