

Approved

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

December 5, 2007
Modern Maturity Center
1121 Forrest Avenue
Dover, DE 19904
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Approved Minutes

Commission members present: Tim Brooks, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Andrea Guest, Sandy Johnson, Stephen Kingsberry, Jim Lafferty, Rita Landgraf, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Vincent Meconi, Marianne Smith

Guests present: Joyce Pinkett, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance

Staff present: Tracy Mann, Center for Disabilities Studies

- I. Welcome and Approval of September 26, 2007 Minutes
 - a. Meeting called to order at 9:13 am.
 - b. Minutes approved unanimously.

- II. Commission Updates
 - a. Member Updates
 - i. Rita Landgraf welcomed new members to the Commission.
 1. Tim Brooks, President, The Arc of Delaware
 - a. Tim stepped in for Joe Connor to staff the Health Care Subcommittee and has now been appointed as a member of the Commission.
 2. Jim Lafferty, Chair, Governor's Advisory Council, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
 3. Peter J. Thedinga, Bank of America (Community/Business Representative)
 - a. Peter was unable to attend today's meeting.
 - b. Status of Contracts
 - i. Medicaid Buy-In, Joyce Pinkett. Scheduled for implementation in May. Developing IT support functions.
 - ii. Commission staffing changes
 1. The contract with Center for Disabilities Studies ends at the end of the 2007 calendar year. Rita Landgraf and Michael Gamel-McCormick need to discuss the proposal regarding \$15,000 in funding that is needed for the CDS to continue the work of the Commission through next year. Rita asked for input from the Commission about possible funding sources to support this work.

Support for the website will continue into 2008 by the Center for Disabilities Studies.

- iii. Respite Plan Presentation, Tim Brooks
 - 1. Tim showed a PowerPoint presentation about the proposed respite care plan for the state of Delaware. The PowerPoint will be distributed with the minutes of this meeting.
 - a. Questions from Commission members:
 - i. Sandy Johnson asked about eligibility for services for individuals. Tim mentioned a fee for service program and stated that the coalition is still discussing how services could be provided to individuals who do not have state or federal benefits to cover costs. Sandy also asked about approaching insurance companies to obtain help with marketing and public relations for the network.
 - ii. Rita Landgraf asked Tim Brooks if he would continue to report on this work through the Health Care subcommittee; Tim agreed. She also asked if the agency would be chosen through an RFP or by the board. Tim said that this discussion is ongoing and has not been decided.
 - iii. Sandy Johnson asked what information is available to callers to the Family and Workplace Connection (FWC). Tim Brooks said there is a staff person available 24 hours a day who can help callers access information. The plan is to have the respite network available 24 hours a day to provide assistance to anyone, regardless of financial resources; however, this will not occur until the third year of the plan. Initially, 24-hour service will be provided by the respite website at FWC.
- iv. Workforce Curriculum and Credentialing Report
 - 1. Renee Bean was unable to attend the Commission meeting due to a flat tire. Michael Gamel-McCormick gave her presentation. Renee prepared a PowerPoint presentation that will be distributed with the minutes of this meeting.
 - 2. Michael discussed the need for recruitment and retention programs and the goals of the Workforce Project. He described training options for direct support professionals including the College of Direct Support and face-to-face trainings.

III. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Transportation – Stephen Kingsberry provided the following updates for activities relates to the transportation subcommittee:
 - i. Funding for Sunday service may be available in the next fiscal year.

- ii. Effect of base realignment and closure on transportation in Maryland and Delaware.
 - iii. Trolley in Newark has started and a trolley line in Wilmington is under consideration.
 - iv. Public transportation on Route 13 will go to the new Shoprite in Wilmington.
 - v. United We Ride is continuing activities.
 - vi. Carpool program enhancements to include accessible vehicles.
 - vii. Partnerships with Bank of America, Shoprite continue; looking for additional partners.
 - viii. Easter Seals Project Action – People on the Move is examining transportation issues – not just transit – across the country and educating legislators about community needs.
 - ix. Rita Landgraf asked if these accomplishments could be captured into the timeline.
 - x. Andrea Guest mentioned that Shoprite is also an employer of many individuals with disabilities, and she reiterated the need for Sunday service for these individuals to fully participate in their training.
- b. Assessment Committee
- i. Rita Landgraf provided an update about the Exemplary Discharge Planning Practice Development (Timeline – Goal VII Objective D). Rita provided a draft report that will also be posted to the website. She highlighted the elements of the plan, including individual involvement and cultural competence, as well as housing, healthcare and employment.
 - ii. Andrea Guest commented about the need to include employment in the assessment process so it is planned for from the beginning, not an afterthought. Often rapid employment is a component of a treatment plan.
 - iii. Rita asked if the Commission would be willing to support this plan. Sandy Johnson asked that the Commission could prioritize approval to be in line with the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness (DICH).
 - iv. Andrea asked what happens once approval has been granted. Rita stated that the report would go back to the Interagency Council for approval or changes. If changes are recommended, the report will come back to the Discharge Planning Committee to have them reviewed. Once the plan is approved the Committee will need to develop an implementation plan that includes training and awareness.
 - v. Marianne Smith asked for a short comment period in order to have the opportunity to review the materials. Rita asked for comments by the end of the month.
- c. Housing Committee
- i. Daniese McMullin-Powell gave a brief presentation on the work of the housing subcommittee. They are meeting again December 11, 2007 to review the needs assessment from the Delaware State Housing Authority.
- d. Money Follows the Person

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- i. Joyce described barriers to implementation of MFP; number one barrier is the lack of housing for persons leaving institutions or long-term care facilities followed by gaps in community supports.
 - ii. Rita Landgraf said that she has an excellent resource for persons wanting training in self-direction she would share with Joyce.
 - iii. There was a question about eligibility for MFP. An individual must be living in a long-term facility for a minimum of six months.
- e. Employment
 - i. Andrea Guest reported on computer problems and the need for assistance for people with disabilities to fill out forms appropriately.
 - ii. Andrea also reported on a campaign in Connecticut using multiple media outlets to promote employment of people with disabilities.
- f. Health Care
 - i. Tim Brooks provided a handout of the updates from the Health Care Subcommittee to update the Commission about the work toward Goals V, IX, and V of the Commission plan.
- g. Workforce Development
 - i. Michael Gamel-McCormick provided an update of the work of the subcommittee.
 - 1. Reported feedback from the direct support professionals who visited legislators in Washington, DC in June that requested that Rep. Castle sign on to HB 1279.
 - 2. Discussion is underway to support a direct support professional (DSP) to attend the Policy Seminar in Washington, DC in February. The Center for Disabilities Studies, Developmental Disabilities Council, and The Arc of Delaware have sent representatives in the past. The subcommittee would like to include a DSP at this event.
 - 3. The committee has begun to review the priorities for the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Technical Assistance grant. Priorities include looking at the starting wage of DSPs in Delaware and strategizing around advocacy for DSPs in Delaware.
 - 4. Requested help in looking for new members for the committee, including DSPs, people with disabilities, and family members.
 - 5. Requested reconvening of the Commission chairs and staff to look across the entire commission plan and move forward in collaboration with the other subcommittees. This work should be coordinated across all of the other subcommittees to locate supports and resources.
 - 6. Reiterated that minimum wage is a critical issue to the subcommittee.

IV. Updates were not provided at this meeting because of time constraints.

- a. Department of Health & Social Services Budget Hearing
- b. Delaware Psychiatric Center

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V. Future Meeting Schedule

- a. Next Meeting is March 5, 2008; 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Goodwill Center, Wilmington
- b. Future Meetings: All meetings are 9:00 - 11:00 am
 - i. June 12, 2008 - Modern Maturity Center, Dover
 - ii. September 3, 2008 - Goodwill Center, Wilmington
 - iii. December 3, 2008 - Modern Maturity Center, Dover

VI. Other Business

VII. Public Comment

- a. Jamie Wolfe provided comment from Developmental Disabilities Council regarding the Money Follows the Person grant and the current position of the Project Director and other staff. The letter outlines the council's concerns about the ability of the state to meet the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services requirement for the due date of the operational protocol and the requirements of the grant.
- b. Daniese McMullin-Powell provided comment about the open positions for the Money Follows the Person grant and concerns that it would not be filled in a timely manner to ensure fulfillment of requirements of the grant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.