

Governor's Commission on Community Based Alternatives for Persons with Disabilities

Full Commission Meeting
September 21, 2006
9:00am – 11:00am
Goodwill Center
Wilmington, DE

Commission members in attendance: Secretary Vincent Meconi (Co-Chair), Rita Landgraf (Co-Chair), Daniese McMullin-Powell, Renata Henry, Representative Pam Maier, Marianne Smith, Sandy Johnson, Michael Shriver

Guests and staff in attendance: Doyle Dobbins (for Andrea Guest), Mary Kate McLaughlin, Kyle Hodges (for Joe Connor), Bonnie Hitch (for Steven Kingsberry), Tracy Mann (for Michael Gamel-McCormick), Michelle Hess

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am

I. Welcome

- Everyone around the table introduced themselves.
- The June meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

II. Commission updates:

- Member Updates:
 - Joe Connor is recovering from an automobile accident. Tim Brooks has been appointed co-chair of the healthcare committee, which is staffed by Kyle Hodges.
 - Michael Shriver has resigned from the Commission and is moving to Charlotte, North Carolina with Bank of America. His resignation is effective today. Michael was appointed as a Community Representative and his position will need to be filled.
 - Dick Patterson also resigned prior to the June meeting. Dick was appointed representing an advocacy organization. Rita Landgraf, Vince Meconi, and Mary Kate McLaughlin are working on filling these positions. Suggestions for nominees should be submitted to Rita Landgraf.
- Status of Contracts:
 - Commission staff contract with the Center for Disabilities Studies is on target and will be completed the end of July 2007.
 - The Assessment committee's contract with Viebridge was supposed to end this month but has been extended without additional costs. The work includes more research and drafting preliminary goals and objectives based upon data assessment needs between agencies within the State.
 - The Respite Care initiative is working with the Healthcare committee by Tim Brooks and the Center for Disabilities Studies. The Respite group is

working with organizations on development of respite care providers database and to create a cross-disability plan for lifespan respite care in Delaware. The Caregiver's Coalition will be assisting the work of this project as an advisory group.

- Renee Bean of CDS is coordinating the Direct Support Workforce Credentialing/Curriculum project through the Direct Support Workforce committee with assistance from DSAMH. An advisory council is being formed to create training curriculum to highlight state training systems in Delaware. Anyone interested in working on this initiative should let Michelle Hess know. Doyle Dobbins requested that someone from DelArf work on the advisory council.
- The push for Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) is again in place for inclusion in the DHSS budget proposal. Sec. Meconi mentioned that \$400,000 (\$200,000 state with match) is needed for systems changes. The Commission has allocated about \$55,000, which will be matched equally with federal funding for a total of \$110,000. The infrastructure development will take about six months through a contract with Deloitte for about a quarter of the systems work. The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) asked the DHSS for more information concerning funding and implementation of MBI in epilogue language of the budget bill. The information will be supplied to the JFC by the November 15 deadline.
- The Direct Support Professionals Conference was held in May by CDS. The conference was very successful and CDS is looking to hold the conference annually. The approximately \$1000 left over in funding will be placed into Medicaid Buy-In allocations as approved at the June meeting.

III. Timeline

- Rita explained to the Commission members the timeline for the next few months concerning the goals of the committee and the completion of a final plan. A meeting will not be held until January where the committees will present their final report for the plan, and a retreat will be held in March with materials provided prior to the retreat for review.
- Committees are also collecting the accomplishments that have been achieved by the commission to show evolution. The plan will prioritize for five years and will work to continue the prioritization from the commission.
- Sandy Johnson asked about how the goals of the committees will be reviewed across them for the consistencies and different needs for supportive services and capacity requirements needed to meet the goals. Kyle Hodges mentioned that the housing committee has incorporated the Interagency Council on Homelessness' strategic plan in the goals and objectives. The Chairs and Staff meetings are held monthly to also look across the committees for consistency.
- By end of April goal is to have a draft five-year plan for review. Public forums will be held in May across the state, and presentations at a broad number of community groups for feedback. The commission would come back together in June to review the feedback and make adjustments, and the five-year plan will be

ready for release in July. The five-year plan will have yearly goals, objectives, and budgets.

IV. Committee updates

- Money Follows the Person (MFP)
 - Representative Pam Maier, MFP committee chair, and Pat Maichle, committee staff person, presented the plan for submittal of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant. Rep. Maier pointed out to the commission members that there is a November 1 application deadline for submittal of the grant application. A planning committee has been set up to pull the grant together. A state match commitment will be needed from the General Assembly and the Governor to fulfill the grant.
 - The primary focus of MFP is to rebalance the long-term care system, provide allocations for people in the community to move people out of institutions, continuity of service (appropriate service), and quality assurance and improvement. Questions were asked about how the MFP grant will deal with housing capacity in the community and the quality workforce needed to support people with disabilities. The workforce subcommittee and the staff from CDS are assisting with providing information for the grant, as well as working in this area around recruitment and retention to improve quality services.
 - Rep. Maier handed out letters to Commission Co-chairs Meconi and Landgraf asking for their support of this process. After discussion of this process by Commission members, there was a motion for approval of support for this application. The Commission voted and approved the motion of support.

- Housing
 - Daniese McMullin-Powell presented the housing committee's approximately eight goals, which have not been prioritized. One major recommendation is to have a unified housing authority for the state of Delaware or consistency; however, Sandy Johnson explained that while coordination has been a problem across the housing authorities in the state there is not a movement to consolidate under one authority.
 - Sandy Johnson of the Delaware State Housing Authority pointed out that there is a population of more than 25% of homeless persons with disabilities in Delaware.
 - Bonnie Hitch mentioned a concern that DART has had with individual who have inaccessible housing; riders that do not have ramps and need to be carried out. Recommendation that the housing committee look into the

- Healthcare
 - Kyle Hodges reported that the committee presently has five goals, some of which were taken from HR 90 report. The goals include.
 - Consumer driven healthcare and increase funding for respite

- Bring kids back into the state
 - Provide additional alternatives to the Exceptional Care for Children programs
 - develop outreach program
 - implement self-determination philosophy
 - affordable health and dental insurance program
 - Matt Denn will be at October meeting to help create realistic objectives
 - There will be a November half-day retreat to better define their objectives and prioritize.
 - Marianne Smith asked if the group would incorporate information from Tom Kelley and the Healthy Delawareans Project. Kyle informed Marianne that Tom sits on the healthcare committee and some information will be included.
 - Renata Henry asked if someone from DSAMH could sit on this committee to assist with goals regarding the needs of children transitioning from Child Mental Health to adult services.
 - The Healthcare committee will meet again September 28, 2006 at 1:30pm at the Appoquinimink State Service Center in Middletown.
- Transportation
 - Bonnie Hitch suggested the major focus area for the Transportation committee is DART, but the group is also looking at choices outside of DART. Aside from not being accessible, taxi service in Delaware is very limited and very expensive. One goal is to reach out to the taxi companies. Other states use a voucher program for this type of service and there are a lot of different programs. The committee's goals were handed out to commission members for review.
 - A committee work retreat has been recommended, but currently there is no scheduled date for the meeting.
- Employment
 - Medicaid Buy-in continues to be the priority goal of the Employment Committee. Other goals include:
 - Employment supports
 - Maximize career options for people with disabilities
 - Maximize employment opportunities for people with disabilities by removing barriers to employment.
 - Improve service provider capacity.
 - Demonstrate the economic benefit of having people with disabilities working to be realized by state and federal government & by taxpayers.
 - Sandy Johnson asked in the Workforce Investment Board considered people with disabilities as a priority in their work.
 - The next meet will take place October 5, 2006 at Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Department of Labor in Wilmington.
 - Workforce

- The Direct Support Workforce committee met on September 12 for a strategic planning meeting. The group went through the goals in place up to that point and made various changes. The main areas of concentration for the committee area pay and benefit equity, career advancement including education and training, consumer discretion which includes training of Direct Support Professionals and the directives of Money Follows the Person.
 - The committee will meet again on October 10, 2006 at CDS room 101 at 10:00am.
- Assessment
 - Rita passed around to Commission members the directives of the Assessment committee. She pointed out that the document is in draft form because the committee has not seen this document. The committee's goals are not yet put into the template.
 - The Assessment committee will meet again in October 24, 2006 at 1:00 at the DHSS Administration building in room 198 in New Castle.

V. Future Meeting Schedule

- The January date and location will be posted on the Commission website (<http://www.udel.edu/cds/ccba.html>)

VI. Other business

- Daniese McMullin-Powell thanked Goodwill Industries for allowing the group who participated in The Freedom March to Washington, DC to stay in the parking lot during the march a few years ago during this same time of year.
- The Department of Health and Social Services public budget hearings are set for November 13 in Senate Chamber of Legislative Hall in Dover.

VII. Public Comment

- Ms. Jamie Wolfe, a service user, addressed the Commission concerning a letter she received from the Division of Services for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) concerning patient pay with the E&D waiver. According to the letter dated August 29, 2006, starting in September, Ms. Wolfe would see an increase in her out of pocket costs. There is no appeal process listed on the letter. Secretary Meconi agreed to take this issue back to DHSS and have it reviewed. Rita suggested that there be a meeting between the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and DSAAPD to discuss this issue.
- Mr. Bill McCool of United Cerebral Palsy spoke up concerning a client who is in a group home. After spending time in institutional care for illness, the client was discharged to another institution. The client is now "stuck" in the second institution because during a public hearing her provider said that due to her increased health conditions the organization could no longer provide for her needs. Mr. McCool's concern is that the provider is being allowed to hold a person in an institution. This is taking place even though Long Term Care and Medicaid support the decision for her to return home and are fining the provider

daily for disallowing the client access. Rita thanked Mr. McCool and suggested the Direct Support Workforce committee incorporate this issue into their goals. She also suggested that Mr. McCool speak with Marianne Smith of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) and she can identify potential providers that they contract as an alternative. Rita further suggested this could be a loophole not covered in MFP, and the MFP committee should look at this concern for the grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am

Respectfully submitted by,
Michelle Hess, Center for Disabilities Studies

**Governor’s Commission on Community-based Alternatives
for Individuals with Disabilities**

This is a timeline of goal dates to meet in the process of completing the final report in preparation for the product launch in July 2007.

July-September 2006	Committees identify goals, priorities, timelines and responsible parties
September 2006	Commission meeting; Committees report preliminary goals and priorities
September-December 2006	Committees refine and finalize goals, priorities, timelines and responsible parties
January 2007	Committees present 5 year plan and highlight priorities to the Commission
December 2006 – February 2007	Committees respond to Commission responses and stakeholder groups; finalize goals and priorities
March 2007	Commission retreat to review committee draft 5 year plans and prioritize goals and objectives for adoption into the Commission’s 5 year plan
April 2007	Commission finalizes draft 5 year plan
May 2007	Circulation of final draft for final public comment
June 2007	Commission review of public comment and revise 5 year plan if warranted
July 2007	Product launch and presentation to the Governor and public release