

Next Meeting – February 14, 2006 – 2:00 PM
Appoquinimink State Service Center
Middletown, Delaware

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2006 – 2:00 PM
APPOQUINIMINK STATE SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE**

PRESENT: Sandy Tuttle, Co-Chair; Ken Andrews, IRI; Ronya Anna, DSAMH/DHSS; Javier Arce, DHHA; Marguerite Ashley, NCCo; Jimmy Atkins, DSAHA; James Baynard, DDDS; Kate Cowperthwait, NMSS; Lorraine DeMeurisse, Deutsche Bank Trust Co; Brian Hartman, SCPD, DLP; Miranda Marequez, DOL/DVR; Merle Murray, DOL/DVR; Kirsten Olson, Connections; Dick Patterson, NAMI-DE; Tina Riley, Delaware Housing Coalition; Kyle Hodges, Staff

ABSENT: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Co-Chair; Carol Barnett, DSAAPD; Regina Byers, SCPD; Vivian Davis, The Arc; Pete DeKunchek, Chimes; Doyle Dobbins, DelArf; Micki Edelson, Homes for Life; Ron Engard, GACEC; Kathy Fisher, DSAMH; Cheryl Hampson, SILC; Yolanda Jenkins, DSCYF; Lottie Lee, DMS-DHSS; Bill McCool, UCP; Victor Orija, DASSPD; Elizabeth Schantz, Consumer; Paula Voshell, DSHA; Pat Weygandt, DDDS

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the November 15, 2005 meeting minutes as submitted.

BUSINESS

**Review of January 6, 2006 Commission Meeting/
Assessment Subcommittee Review**

Sandy said that as a reminder, this Committee had decided at their November 15th meeting to make a recommendation to the Commission that staffing support was needed. So since Sandy could not be at the meeting, it was agreed that I would send a letter to Vince Meconi and Rita Langraf making that recommendation with my proxy vote. The letter stated that this Housing Committee recommended the use, at a minimum, some of the \$250,000 appropriated for the Commission for FY 2006 to provide a full-time coordinator for the Commission--in addition sufficient funds should be provided to

contract with an individual or firm to support the work of the Assessment sub-committee in identifying and developing a plan to define the information systems necessary to execute the assessment process. The members of the Housing sub-committee felt that there is really good work being accomplished in the various sub-committees, but without a full-time person to coordinate the work among the committees, the impact of the work will be minimal. In addition, the recommendation to provide additional resources for the assessment sub-committee is made due to the amount of work and expertise needed to define what information is currently tracked and how systems could interface. Kyle was able to sit in on this meeting.

The Commission meeting focused on how the \$250,000 was to be used. In the State budget there is \$250,000 to be used for the Commission under the Office of Management and Budget. Recommendations were asked as to how to spend that money. After much discussion, the money is going to the following:

- Staff for the Commission \$50,000
- Consultant for the (Universal) Assessment Committee \$50,000
- Respite \$50,000
- 4 Accessible traffic lites \$20,000
- Support of Direct Workforce Conference (Center for Disabilities) Initiative \$12,000
- Workforce Training Certificate (Center for Disabilities) Initiative \$35,000
- Medicaid buy-in (MBI) \$33,000

Kyle reported that the State budget recommended that approximately \$396,000 is needed for the Medicaid buy-in (\$200,000 for infrastructure costs and \$196,000 for 3 months of implementation in FY 07. We will not know if that will go into the Governor's recommended budget until the end of this month. The \$33,000 was recommended in case MBI was not fully funded and it displays the importance of the program. The Commission may revisit the aforementioned recommended allocations after the Governor's recommended budget is determined.

Sandy said that the Housing Committee has done a great job interacting with the Assessment Sub-Committee and Victor has been responsible for a lot of that as a liaison to both groups. Kyle said that the money can be encumbered for FY '07. Daniese also reiterated our recommendations about Sandy's report in September to the Commission about the comprehensive needs assessment and also the funding for home and rental modifications. Kyle said the other committees also gave a report on the status of what they are doing.

Kyle reported that, to this end, he is not clear on the Assessment Committee's intentions regarding the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Sandy said the first step is to figure out what the process is going to be for collecting this data by the various state agencies and how the system is going to interface. Sandy reported that she attended a meeting and it still needs to be determined how this information will be collected – the

proposed consultant should be able to address that. Sandy suggested that they request, from all our sub-committees, a description of all the data that we felt needed to be collected. The Housing Committee then followed-up from the last meeting. Kyle worked with Lottie Lee and we sent a description of the data that we felt was needed in order to understand the housing needs of people with disabilities. Kyle fed some of the HMIS data to the Assessment Committee so it would be consistent. Sandy said that was a start and now someone needs to sit down and analyze all that, and look at the current state systems in place and figure out what would work and how to move that process forward.

Jimmy said that Dr. Javier Arce, a new staff member, of DSHA is going to be heading up the needs assessment this year. Jimmy said that they have conducted a few in-house meetings as to how the needs assessment is going to be addressed. What we are trying to do now is to try and develop several different working groups to begin to help us breakdown how we are going to go about collecting the information. The DSHA is starting now to talk about the needs assessment for FY '07 - how do we break it down to get the relevant pieces of data that we need? We felt that the best approach might be to develop a working group on housing needs for people with disabilities. The DSHA wants to have data people on that group. These people will be the best to work with once the consultant is brought on board, and it would free this committee up a little bit. Jimmy asked if anyone has recommendations who could work on this group. DDDS will send someone. Kyle will contact DSAPPD and maybe the Kids Department. Lottie was recommended. Also, Kirsten will contact Cara. Jimmy is moving on to another position; however, he would like to still be involved with this group. Kyle and Jimmy will coordinate a date for this group to meet. This working group needs to know who the participants will be by this Thursday, and then get a meeting date by the next few weeks.

Path Forward/Next Steps Regarding Housing Recommendations

Sandy said that the Housing Recommendations are as follows:

1. Conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment

Jimmy has provided a great next step and we will execute that. Sandy asked if there are other things that we should be thinking about in order to make this recommendation happen?

Kyle asked if there is any additional funding needed to do this. Jimmy reported no. Kyle said this Committee developed another group that some of the members were involved with to look at current State and define a scope of services for a needs assessment. Kyle asked if that group needed to continue or would the other group take the place of the current state group. Jimmy said that he would advocate that once we get the working group in place that would be the group to work with the Housing Authority on a needs assessment.

Kyle asked Marguerite Ashley if New Castle County should be involved. She reported that in the County's 5-year plan the, it relied on the DSHA statewide housing needs assessment for the disability community. The County leans on the state as they have not come up with their own needs assessment.

Kyle asked if NAMI, The ARC be involved in this working group. Jimmy said "yes" those groups should also be included. Sandy said we could provide a list of contacts that you would need to reach out to while you are doing this study. Sandy will send Kyle a list of contacts that her organization is compiling. A letter may need to be sent to organizations that have not been involved letting them know that this going to occur and asking them to respond to any requests. Sandy and Kyle will compose the letter.

Sandy asked if there any other action steps to be taken. Brian said he is being interviewed for input on the DDDS strategic plan. Brian said we could ask them to support the needs assessment initiative in their five year plan. Sandy said that also it needs to go from this committee as a recommendation to the full commission where each division director sits that, if this is going to work over time, then you have to incorporate the responsibility to do this within your structure and planning. For the next full Commission meeting, we could think of recommending this suggestion. Kyle and Sandy will think of how to word this, and take it to the next Commission meeting.

2. Increase funding and subsidies for home and rental modifications.

We have been trying to collect some specific data and dollars in this context and request that it be incorporated in the FY '07 budget. Kyle replied that in your packet, there are some e-mails. The first one is from Beth Mineo and I was asking if DATI had any kind of list that might look at this area. Beth is not aware of any comprehensive source of that information. But, on their website, there are places where you can get home improvement loans. Various dollar amounts are given for loans and average cost of repairs—ramp costs, etc., but it is really not what we are looking for. Daniese is trying to get information from UCP, but has not had any luck. In Griff Campbell's e-mail, he indicates that \$245,000 is available for people who qualify from SILC and DSAAPD. And, there is specific dollars in the email from the MS Society. Ginger will send a summary on information for the Emergency, Seniors and Architectural Accessibility grants which total \$300,000 to Sandy and Kyle. Kyle said that he would like to have some concrete numbers to justify the funding. Kyle suggested that we could target some of the specific groups, MS, UCP, etc. James will check on the family court waiver from DDDS.

Sandy said that Kyle and she will analyze what information they have for New Castle County and come back with what we have and decide what this means to us and where to we go from here. Brian suggested that Beth Mineo be invited to come to a meeting. Kyle reported that she is on our email and mailing list..

Other Issues for SCPD to Address?

Kyle asked if there are any other issues that we should address. It was determined that there the Committee already has enough issues to address.

Other Business

Bridge Voucher

At this time, the DSHA is waiting for information from DDDS. Rita Langraf was going to contact Lynne Howard from New Castle County to possibly have a pilot program. DDDS has \$100,000 that could support 15-20 vouchers. If a person was waiting for housing and did not have the money for it, then the bridge program will provide money until a voucher became available. Kyle said that DSHA, DDDS, Daniese, Rita Langraf and Kyle had a meeting to discuss this program. More information was needed from DDDS. Jimmy said they were waiting to get more specifics on the Section 8 voucher program. Due to a staff change, there is a new program manager beginning soon and then we should be able to get more specifics. Jimmy will follow up and let Kyle know any more specifics.

Also, Sandy said that we are working to get the rest of the Housing Authorities to get involved with this Committee and Kyle has made contact and is waiting for their responses.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Hodges
SCPD Administrator

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