

**Consumer Task Force**  
**Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards**  
**November 27, 10:00 am - noon**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Jacqui Day, Sara Harrison, Michael Daschlein, Tari Muñoz, Jill Gerrie, Laura Hall, Jack Vint, Mary Ablan, Marion Owen, Colleen Widder, Suanne McBrien, Sharon Hold, Jackie Tichnell, Tandy Bidinger, Hollis Turnham, Maureen Sheahan, Roxanne Chang, Ellen Speckman-Randall, Rob Curtner, Wendi Middleton, Cathy McRae, Kate White, Ian Engle, Robin Ripmaster, Verna Spayth, Ester VanHammen, Sarah Slocum

**INTRODUCTIONS:** The Task Force welcomes Ellen Speckman-Randall. She was recently hired as the program manager for the DRA/MFP grant. Her office will be at the Medical Services Administration but she will work very closely with the Office.

**MINUTES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee is now more of a follow-up for clarification from the morning meeting. Laura thanked Jack for helping her understand the divestment policy. Anyone wanting to provide information to the Connections for Community Leadership should contact Laura.

Several of the grants require consumer involvement. The grant managers should contact Jackie T. if they need consumers for their projects. Be sure that consumers have more than a 24-hour notice so arrangements can be made.

The agenda was changed. OSA distributed notice that the Ombudsman program organization will not change so the presentation by CBC was not necessary. In its place, Sarah Slocum provided information on the chance for public testimony regarding the nursing home standards advisory committee recommendations (see below).

**OFFICE UPDATE:** The Office update was distributed.

**STATUS OF BUDGET:** Mary Ablan gave an update on the status of the budget. The 2008 state budget was passed, late. It included several tax increases for revenue purposes. MI Choice received an increase

probably for transitions and some expansion. (This is the first budget increase since 2001.) Now is the time to let the legislature know to “roll-up” the long-term care budget line item. This means that the funding for all long-term care services will be put into one “pot.” This move is essential if Michigan is to fully implement Money Follows the Person.

Some legislators feel that separate line items will help monitor spending and state decisions. With separate line items, it may be necessary to obtain additional funding through legislative transfers, but these are very difficult and time consuming to get. Also, many of the nursing facilities fear their funding will be at risk with a roll-up line item.

Colleen is willing to testify before the legislature and will help Sharon as well. Written testimony is also an alternative to verbal testimony.

**PROJECT UPDATES:** The project update was distributed.

- **Project Success** - Tari, with Hollis and Maureen, made a presentation of this project. It involves the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute giving technical assistance to create a curriculum for “Train the Trainer - Consumers as Employers.” This curriculum is based on that used by the persons with developmental disabilities to recruit and train their personal assistants. The adult learning methodology is being used (more discussion/dialog than formal teaching, create mutual respect for trainees). Their focus will, at first, be on those consumers in MI Choice who are enrolled in self-determination. Ten 2-person teams will be trained consisting of one consumer and one agency staff. They will work as partners in training.

They are requesting help from the Task Force to:

- Review their draft materials
  - The flyer should be simpler and shorter
  - An orientation should be provided before the training introduced. It is too intimidating to commit to as is.
  - “Facilitator” not as intimidating as “trainer”
  - Send comments to Tari Muniz, [munizt@michigan.gov](mailto:munizt@michigan.gov)
- Recruit consumers
- Introduce issues

- Long-term care consumers may have more than one supervisor depending on the situation.
- The application filled out by the agency staff should include their plan for supervisor buy-off.

Potential trainers need to register before January 25, 2008.

- The agency trainers could be MI Choice waiver agents, centers for independent living, LTC Connections. Agency trainers will help promote the needed culture change within their agency and to host the local training sessions.
- MI Choice consumers as trainers are preferred but not required. (Other consumers could train, as well.) Mistrust of equal partnership with the agency trainer was discussed.
- It was noted that funding for consumers to attend the training (e.g., travel, PA costs) are not available.

They wish to be added to the agenda for the next several months. January agenda should include assurance that the consumer is an equal partner with the agency trainer.

- **OSA NURSING HOME DIVERSION PROJECT:** This grant is for persons over age 60 who are not Medicaid eligible nor functionally nursing facility eligible. It included Older Americans Act funding. Several workgroups have been formed already. Wendi is looking for volunteers for her workgroup - Training and Education. Support funding is available.

## **NURSING HOME STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Sarah distributed an Action Alert calling for consumer testimony at the public hearing on the need for the recommendations. The public testimony is Wednesday, November 27, 2007 followed by the committee vote on the recommendations. The full Certificate of Need commission meeting to vote on the committee recommendation is December 11. This will provide another opportunity for public testimony.

The basic principle of the recommendations is to review the facility's track record and corporate connections. Jackie T. will distribute the flyer to the entire CTF electronically today. E-mails or fax testimony

may be sent to Sarah Slocum ([slocums@michigan.gov](mailto:slocums@michigan.gov)). The actual standards are still being revised and are very long.

While there is no statute to review the standards, there is the opportunity for review every 3 years.

MDRC can help provide funding to support consumers to attend the public hearings.

**OTHER:**

- SueAnn - the Virginia Street project in East Lansing - the contracted builder was going to leave the issue of visitability to the buyer. East Lansing declined this offer and noted that each unit had to be 100% visitable. MSU is now involved.
- Laura - the House hearing on Community Choice Act (formerly MiCassa) will be scheduled the first hearing date after the holiday.
- Jack - LCC has a class on caregiver training. However, due to lack of enrollment in the class, it will not be held this semester.
- Rob - it was noted that caregiver agencies need person-centered training. Rob will pursue this idea.

Next meetings:

December 18, 2007, CANCELED

January 22, 2008, 10am - noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards

- New Year Potluck is planned
- Information session on Prepaid LTC Plan.