

Consumer Task Force
August 22, 2006
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Susan Steinke, Cathy McRae, Tari Muñiz, Jack Vint, Jane Church, Carolyn Lejuste, Mike Daeschlein, Nora Barkey, Sara Harrison, Laura Hall, Theresa Arini, Jacqui Day, Marva Ways, Esther Van Hammen, Tandy Bidinger, Mary Ablan, Carolyn Brown, Kate White, Alison Hirschel, Marion Owen, Mike Head

Minutes: The minutes from last month were reviewed. It was noted that Ian Engle's name was misspelled.

Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services Update

- **Reformatting of the Project Updates** In order to provide more time for issues discussions, it was suggested that the grant managers provide Jackie Tichnell with written updates to be distributed prior to the meeting. The Task Force members could then ask specific questions based on that information and the grant managers could also request specific input. This approach was used for the August meeting and was supported by the Task Force members.

Project managers should add issues/questions to their reports if they want input on specific issues. Also, anyone on the Task Force can send agenda items to Jackie Tichnell.

- **Start Time** There was discussion regarding changing the time of the Task Force meeting to an earlier time. Given the change in the format, it was felt that this would not be necessary as there should now be more time for focused discussions. It was stated that the meetings should start on time. Members could come earlier if they wanted to network prior to the Task Force meeting.

Brief Project Updates/Issues/Discussions:

- **Medicaid Infrastructure Grant:** Theresa Arini distributed an updated Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Project Issues Grid. There are currently 809 persons enrolled in Freedom to Work. Theresa will include her name and contact information on the next updated grid. This document was not part of the project summary. Jackie Tichnell will distribute to those not at the meeting.
Theresa Arini, 517-335-9100, arinit@michigan.gov
- **Money Follows the Person:** The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition will provide Jackie Tichnell an update to be distributed before the next meeting.
- **Single Point of Entry:** Nora Barkey provided a notice of an information forum for the Single Points of Entry. (Jackie Tichnell will distribute to those not at the meeting.) The forum is Monday, August 28th, at the Library of Michigan, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, at 10am to noon. These forums will continue monthly depending on the outcome and interest. Progress and updates on the single points of entry will be provided at the forums. Public comment will probably be via written request for tracking purposes.

There was discussion regarding Information/Referral and Options Counseling. Information/Referral should be implemented by October 1. The Options Counseling is more detailed and complicated to implement. It will probably not be implemented until December. The boundary between the two services is still vague and being developed with the sites.

Getting consumers on the site boards (advisory and governing) is progressing. Each site is responsible for seeing this criterion is met. There are three Long-Term Care Commissioners on the Seminar Work Group, Sandy Kilde, RoAnne Chaney, and Andy Farmer. It was suggested that the Informational Forum be a good source of consumers for the boards. People should be referred to the appropriate site Area Agency on Aging, as indicated in last month's meeting minutes. For Detroit, people should contact Earlene O'Neill, at the Detroit Area Agency on Aging if interested.)

There was a discussion regarding consumer's rights and the single point on entry. For example, what is the consumer's recourse if the Information/Referral specialist provides incorrect information and benefits are delayed. This is where the external consumer advocate would be helpful. At this point, the appeal rights will involve the existing DCH fair hearings process. The Request for Proposals does have criteria for providing consumers with a written document that outlines the consumer rights. This is not currently defined yet, as the processes for implementing the single point of entry have priority.

Deficit Reduction Act - Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Grant:

The Department will be submitting this grant to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). A brief description of this grant was provided. This grant is still being refined by CMS as to specific criteria (for example, are the community services just long-term care services or does it include primary care, what does the six-month rule actually mean, what types of nursing facilities are included). The grant provides a higher federal match for certain consumers who have been deinstitutionalized from nursing facilities. The extent of this grant needs to be decided on by DCH. Michael Daeschlein is working on this grant and will provide more clarification at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding the use of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) project of Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRS) as part of this grant and the 400 waiver slots that have been promised for the CCRCs. The basic concept of the CCRC project is to provide housing alternatives for persons and have support services provided by existing programs like MIChoice and Food Stamps. The CCRC project will require a very difficult waiver to implement. There are currently no funds for the additional waiver slots. There is a project team that is working on the CCRC project. There was also discussion regarding the use of licensed and nonlicensed assisted living facility criteria and funds for the CCRC project, and the concern that the CCRC concepts do not follow the Money Follows the Person concepts. There is a bidder's conference for the CCRC project, August 30, at MSHDA on Michigan Avenue at 1:00 on the 4th floor.

By collaborating with the CCRC project, this could be seen as an opportunity to find unusual allies to seek additional funding from the legislature.

2007 Long-Term Care Conference: The Department starting to plan the 2007 Long-Term Care Conference. It is anticipated to be in late March or early April. The location is still being determined. Suzanne Trent will be the conference planner. We will be inviting partners to join

in the planning. There is not as much grant money for this conference so the number of stipends is lower. We are hoping for more vendors and sponsors to help defray the cost of the conference. Jackie Tichnell will send out a list of last year's sessions to help people determine possible new sessions. If a session is suggested, it would be helpful to have a speaker suggested as well. We will also be pursuing the Continuing Education Credits for nursing facility administrators, nurses, and social workers.

Other business

- Elder Law received a grant for assisting targeted individuals with legal issues. The phone number is 1-877-GLBT-LAW. (GLBT stands for gay, lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexuals.) There is no age restriction on the caller, but it is requested that the issues relate to aging. The phone number is operational, but not widely known yet. Elder Law is working on promotional materials.
- There are several consumers attending the Consumer Training Conference in Chicago this week. It was suggested that they provide a presentation at the next Consumer Task Force meeting to share the information they received.
- Esther Van Hammen reported that one person can make a difference! She has been working with the Road Commission in Honor and has received a commitment that they will provide signage for their road. This means her husband will be able to travel their road with added safety. Way to go, Esther!!!
- It was suggested that this group solicit individual's ideas in a more specific manner.
- Acronyms are overused. The State staff need to remember that not everyone on the Task Force is as familiar with acronyms.
- DCH should find out if Michigan received the Systems Transformation Grant in September.
- It was noted that more primary consumers are needed on the Task Force. We need to determine who represents whom in the existing membership. We also need representatives from the Medical Services Administration (Medicaid), Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Council and older adults. There was also an indication that primary care be represented.
- Jackie Tichnell handed out the brochure for the Person-Centered Conference in Kalamazoo, September 19/20. Consumer members of the Task Force should contact RoAnne Chaney regarding financial support for attending.
- The Developmental Disabilities Council has new members, including Jacqui Day.

Next meetings: September 26, 2006, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
October 24, 2006, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards