

Consumer Task Force  
Michigan Quality Community Care Council  
April 28, 2009 10:00 am - noon

MINUTES

**ATTENDEES:** Roxanne Chang, Jacqui Day, Norm DeLisle, Laura Hall, Sharon Hall, Sara Harrison, Suanne McBrien, Susan Steinke, Cyndy Viars, Jane Alexander, Nora Barkey, Tandy Bidinger, Rob Curtner, Tari Muñiz, Jackie Tichnell, Drew Walker

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY MINUTES** - Minutes were approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES** - There was brief discussion regarding consumer stipends for participation on LTC Commission workgroups. Jane Alexander is still in the process of obtaining the Department's policy on consumer stipends. Cyndy and Tandy are on the Commission Public Education Workgroup and are looking for consumers to represent themselves, not the CTF. Other methods of participation were discussed. Conference calling is a possibility but has its difficulties. It was noted that conference calls should be an option and not used in lieu of transportation expenses unless necessary. The Commission workgroup meeting schedules are on the Office web site.

<http://www.michigan.gov/ltc/0,1607,7-148--194979--,00.html>

Nora requested input on what consumers want to know, at first contact, about LTC. One suggestion is that the families want reassurance that the consumer would be safe in the community.

**MISSION STATEMENT** - The Office provided a revised CTF mission statement for CTF approval. Laura provided a summary of the changes. She was also concerned that "consumer-driven" does not specifically include other stakeholders, but the CTF did not think this was an issue.

There was also discussion regarding the intent of "inform." It was decided that the sentence should read: "...and to enhance the work of the state as it relates to long-term care supports and services..." Peggy Brey must still approve this change.

**CHCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR INTEGRATED LTC PLANS** - Jane Alexander provided a summary of this grant. The Center for Health Care Services will provide technical assistance to the state to

develop a plan to provide services to Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible) consumers using both funding streams.

It has been submitted to the Center for Health Care Services for approval. Laura did review it before it was submitted. She suggested the plan all dual eligibles.

**OFFICE UPDATE** - Jane Alexander provided an overview of the Process Action Teams (PATs) in the Office and their relationship to the Commission workgroups. All PATs are looking for stakeholder help. If you are interested, you should contact the Office.

**STATE PROFILE TOOL** - An abstract of the tool and the Index were provided. The draft tool was sent to CMS on March 31. We are currently waiting for the final approval of the various sections from the state staff experts. Once approved, it will be given to the Stakeholder Council for review. The tool should be approved in 6 months. Several of the Task Force noted that this Michigan LTC is very complex with many departments involved. The next step is to create national LTC benchmarks with CMS.

**FY 2010 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH BUDGET** - Jane Alexander provided a narrative and flow chart of the state budget process. Members should note that, by the time the budget process gets to the Legislature, much opportunity to influence the budget has already passed. People need to provide input to the department all the time.

Boilerplate language was defined as the description of the budget items and includes earmarked projects and limitations or restrictions on certain items.

The current budget for 2010 has passed the House and is in the Senate. It was noted that the House, historically, allows for more public comment. But, people can always provide copies of written testimony. The legislative web site has the schedule of hearing for the budget. You can also sign up for committees on-line.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(y5fs0045awoll5e41nl104ix\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=CommitteeMeetings](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(y5fs0045awoll5e41nl104ix))/mileg.aspx?page=CommitteeMeetings)

**PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING DEFINITION, CORE VALUES/PRINCIPLES AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS** - Nora provided the CTF with this document, and noted that it has been adopted by the Commission and approved by the DCH director who supports the principles and is commits the department's leadership to adopt these principles

across the department. The next step is to move these principles across state government.

Tari is working on training materials. The Office is developing materials for consumers and what they should know about PCP up front, e.g., the consumer has control and provide examples. Videos on the web could be very useful, as well. (The Flint video was cited as a good example.)

The next meeting of the Commission PCP workgroup is June 10, 10am, in the OSA Conference Room. If you wish to participate, contact Nora. Tari's subcommittee on training has a meeting on May 13, 3pm, in the Office conference room.

**MI CHOICE AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN LICENSED FACILITIES** - The amendment to the MI Choice waiver to include "residential services" as a new coverage was submitted to CMS on April 1. This will allow MI Choice services to be provided in a licensed AFC or Home for the Aged (HA). Also included in the amendment was a new prioritization of the wait list, increase in the number of slots for the waiver, and a change in the methodology of determining the administrative reimbursement rate that includes an acuity measure. Susan noted that she, Sarah Slocum, and Alison Hirschel will be talking to MSA regarding the low MI Choice administrative rate.

**MIG ACTIVITIES** - The amendments to the Freedom To Work legislation have been introduced in the House and Senate. These amendments include changing the eligibility to allow spend-down consumers to become eligible for FTW and change the premium structure. Both bills have sponsors. Laura will send talking points to Jackie.

There is also work on developing training for different types of benefits counselors to be sure that all are providing the same and correct message.

The workgroup continues to seek funding for the db101 internet tool. This tool will provide people with information on how a specific situation may affect their benefits.

#### **SYSTEM CHANGE IDEAS -**

- Increase the number of DHS staff
- Change the financial eligibility for programs so it is consistent across the array of services. Rob Curtner is working on a grid that identifies the eligibility criteria for the array. Susan Steinke will send Doug Chalgian's eligibility descriptions from the Commission workgroup.

- Integrate acute and long-term care services. This is a national issue as well.
- Treating multiple chronic conditions. Most physicians do not treat multiple conditions, only one at a time.
- Physicians prescribe things that are not covered and as such must come out of the consumers pocket
- If you have multiple insurances, their policies sometimes contradict each other. For example, Medicare will not allow in-home physical therapy unless you are homebound. Or a consumer must be at home to receive in-home nursing, but insurance won't allow a visiting physician, so the person has to go to the doctor so they really aren't home bound so can't get the nursing!
- There is no back-up plan for home help

The Office will review the situation and the policies. Then determine the best method for dealing with the barrier. The Office will maintain a list of the system change issues and the progress to alleviate them.

#### OTHER

- PROJECT STATUS REPORTS
  - Tari provided a template for agencies to use for self-determination. Comments are welcome. At this point, there are 890 people on self-determination in MI Choice.
  - The QC3 has 5 more counties who have met their goals of new consumers using the QC3.
- ADAPT - Are in DC. They are advocating for the Community Choice Act to be part of the Administration's Health Care Reform.

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#### REMINDERS:

#### NEXT MEETINGS:

**August 25, 2009**

MICHIGAN QUALITY COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL, 3186 PINE TREE ROAD, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48911

**October 27, 2009**

MICHIGAN QUALITY COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL, 3186 PINE TREE ROAD, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48911

PHONE IN NUMBER: 877-873-8018, passcode 7989381