

CONSUMER TASK FORCE
Michigan Quality Community Care Council
February 24, 2008
10:00 am - noon

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Roanne Chaney, Rob Curtner, Jacqui Day, Laura Hall, Sharon Hall, Sara Harrison, Alison Hirschel, Sharon Hold, Christie List, Suanne McBrien, Cathy McRae, Susan Steinke, Cyndy Viars, Tammy Yeomans, Jackie Tichnell, Drew Walker

SPEAKERS: Jo Murphy, Jeanette Thomas

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Due to other topics, the minutes were not approved.

OFFICE UPDATE: The Governor's recommended budget was released last week. With it, the Office of LTC Supports and Services will be integrated into other parts of DCH. This has raised concern with the CTF for the following reasons:

- There is no accountability for long-term care reform
- The LTC Commission was supported by, and reported to, the Office. It is unknown how this will impact the Commission
- The Office is now the central repository for coordinating grants
- We might lose the push and momentum for consumer choice

Hirschel, Steinke, Chaney, and Slocum met with Nick Lyons, Kurt Krause, and Chuck Overby from the Department to express their concerns. They offered an alternative to move the Office, in tact, into another Bureau.

The House will be receiving testimony on the DCH budget on Monday, March 1 on the 3rd Floor of the Capitol starting at 10am. Steinke will talk to the chair for accommodations regarding Spec Tran riders. Hirschel provided a handout of talking points that may be used by consumers/advocates. In addition, Hirschel, Chaney, Steinke, and Laura Hall offered assistance to those who are unable to provide, or are uncomfortable with, providing testimony before the appropriations subcommittee. The Task Force, as individual advocates, were encouraged to write the Governor, the DCH Director, and the newspapers.

Steinke will send Jacqui Day a list of contacts for advocacy.

LTC SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION - The Commission held a retreat in January. Laura Hall attended as a special guest. This retreat focused on the Commission's strategic plan and communication with the Office. The Office has created 9 Project Action Teams (PATs) to correspond with the 9 LTC Task Force recommendations. These PATs will develop logic models and steps to implementing the recommendations in partnership with the Commission.

OVERVIEW OF MEDICAID FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR NURSING FACILITIES AND MICHoice - Jo Murphy, from Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Plans, provided a tutorial on the differences in eligibility for nursing homes and community-based services. It was stated that if a consumer has an option for nursing facility, they should have the option of MI Choice.

Steinke noted that she and Doug Chalgian are part of a subcommittee of the LTC Commission Finance Workgroup and will be looking at eligibility barriers.

The possible impact of early release prisoners on the long-term care system was discussed. Currently, services to these individuals are paid through Corrections with 100% state funds. Once they enter the Medicaid system, services are federally matched. There are less than 800 prisoners that could be affected by this policy. There has been no commitment as to where the savings would go, general fund or long-term care.

MISSION STATEMENT - This was discussed. Given the uncertainty of the future of the Office, it was suggested to change the reference in last sentence to "inform the work of the state as it relates to LTC.... This change was approved and the mission statement adopted by the CTF, pending approval by Office management.

SYSTEM CHANGE IDEAS

- Raise the Protected Income Level through the State legislature
- Change the rules for MI Choice to allow individuals with a spenddown to participate
- Change the financial eligibility for home help to up to at least 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. This should take some of the pressure off the MI Choice for those individual who only need home help.

OTHER

- Laura Hall and ADAPT managed to get Stabenow to co-sponsor the Community Choice Act for Michigan
- MDRC has received an anonymous donation to support consumers to attend a rally in Washington DC on the Community Choice Act. Partners in this include ADAPT, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the National Center for Independent Living. The rally is April 29; MDRC has enough funds to partially support about 20 people at \$500 each. This will include the rally in the morning, a legislative follow-up in the afternoon, and another follow-up later in the following month. There is also an ADAPT action going on at the same time.
- Laura continues to meet with Andy Farmer of the Commission. They are looking at ways to get information on the actions of the Commission to the CTF and ways the CTF can participate in the Commission activities.
- Project Updates
 - QCCC is working on a web page on the QCCC site for Freedom to Work with Leah March. March and Steinke will be meeting with DELEG and Michigan Rehabilitation Services on Freedom to Work.
 - Steinke also provided a clarification on the peer mentoring position that was included in the information packet.
 - Due to time restraints, the CTF was unable to review the update on the OSA waiver. This will be on the April agenda.

NEXT MEETINGS

April 28, 2009

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

June 23, 2009

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

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