

Consumer Task Force
May 22, 2007
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
10:00 am - noon
MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Tandy Bidinger, Jacqui Day, Sara Harrison, Michael Daeschlein, Joe Longcor, Rob Curtner, Tony Wong, RoAnne Chaney, Cathy McRae, Verna Spayth, Jackie Tichnell, John Jokish, Tari Muniz, Jill Gerrie, Laura Hall, Suanne McBrien, Jack Vint, Orystine Gulley, Paul Palmer, Esther VanHammen, Wendi Middleton

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Minutes - April minutes were approved.**
- 3. Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services -** The Office Director spoke to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee about long-term care issues. Several of the Consumer Task Force members were at that session. It was noted that many of the legislators still do not understand consumer choice. It was also noted that several of the nursing facility providers encouraged the need to fund the full array of long-term care services, not just nursing home and that housing was an issue. Jackie will send the presentation to the Consumer Task Force members.

The Office has also asked for six positions to be exempt from the hiring freeze. These include the two project managers for the Systems Transformation Grant and the Deficit Reduction Act/Money Follows the Person Grant. These two positions are needed to meet the grant requirements and receive funds for implementation.

- 4. Brief Project Updates -**
 - **Medicaid Infrastructure Grant -** Joe Longcor gave a short summary of what this grant is about. Basically, it is to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities to work. As of May 1, 2007,

there are 966 people on Freedom to Work. There are not enough people enrolled in Freedom to Work to ask the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for a comprehensive grant. The Health Management Associates are doing a study on spend-down person and Freedom to Work. A draft should be ready in June.

Joe also explained the State Plan issue about personal care services in the workplace. Once the state sends in a State Plan amendment request, it opens the entire item for federal review. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not have a problem with the personal care in the workplace; however, it does have a problem with a few of the funding mechanisms around personal care. This would include paying for personal care in adult foster care homes and homes for the aged. At this point, the Office Director will be calling the federal grant manager for help in getting the amendment approved. If needed, the Office may ask the Consumer Task Force to do advocacy for this issue. Once approved, the Consumer Task Force will also be asked to help get the word out to consumers that personal care in the workplace is available.

The issue of volunteers was brought up. The State Plan amendment calls for personal care in the workplace. It does not include personal care in the “community.” This may be a future amendment request.

Joe also added that Brian McDonald was in Michigan to talk about the calculator tools used in California as a benefits planning tool. (www.db101.org is the website for this tool). United Way in Detroit has shown interest in such a tool. Joe is following-up on this issue.

- **Self-Determination in Long-Term Care** - Tari Muñoz gave a summary of this grant. It is to give MIChoice waiver consumers the option to direct their own services, including payment using Medicaid funds. It is hoped this option will be available statewide

by 2008. It will be included in the upcoming MIChoice waiver renewal application. Intensive training to waiver agents will happen this summer. The trainings are more effective when consumers are at them. They will occur in three sites: Ann Arbor, Gaylord, and Kalamazoo. Tari is asking the Consumer Task Force to identify consumers who could attend these trainings. It is a 1½ day training and the Office will help fund consumers to attend.

There is a paper of Frequently Asked Questions. Jackie will send this to the Task Force.

- **Independence Plus** - Robert Curtner gave a summary of this grant. It is to expand on the self-determination concepts now used in the mental health area. He also gave information on the Self-Determination Conference in June in Lansing. Consumers may be funded through the Consumer Task Force. Also, Ellen Sugrue-Hyman wrote a brochure on “Hiring and Managing Your Personal Care Assistant.” This is available from ARC. Also, the curriculum is available at <http://198.109.129.5:3455/sdl/74>. The semi-annual report was sent to CMS last week. The Office is asking for a no-cost 6-month extension (through March 2008) of this grant to finish the goals.
- **Money Follows the Person (2003) R. Curtner** - A concept paper was drafted for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the 1915b waiver for long-term care managed care. It was sent to CMS last Friday. CMS does not encourage States to distribute the concept paper as it may change once they review it. Also, the semi-annual report was sent to CMS last week. The Office is asking for a no-cost 6-month extension of this grant to finish the goals.
- **LTC Supports and Services Advisory Commission** - There was a question about filling the vacant position on the Commission with a consumer. If anyone wants to nominate a consumer to be

considered for the Commission, they need to contact the Governor's Office, Appointments Division.

5. **Person-Centered Planning Guidelines** - Robert Curtner noted that the Task Force did ask for this presentation to be provided at the next meeting. Rob did want to note the companion piece that includes the organizational supports needed for person-centered planning.
6. **Executive Committee Meeting** - The Executive Committee had their first meeting. They are asking several other Task Force members to attend as well for good representation. This includes Jack, Sueanne, Orystine, Paul, and Esther. The Committee's goal is to create the agenda and identify major issues.

Other items discussed included possible orientation sessions for the Task Force itself, specific projects, waivers. Some of these sessions may be at various locations such as Senior Centers. It was noted that Marion Owen may be willing to host one of these. There needs to be something in writing at a readable level, including revising the Consumer Task Force binder. It was suggested that the contact list include a description of the projects.

The DVD, CPIGs, was shown at the Consumer Task Force meeting. It will be the Executive Committee's challenge to keep these meetings exciting so members will want to come. It was suggested to have actual personal stories, hopefully given by the person themselves, to help give support that we are really changing the system.

The information packets need to be smaller. The project updates may need to include information on activities in relation to grant goals. It was suggested that the project manager's picture be included on the updates to help connect the person with the grant.

The meetings may need to be longer to get everything done. It was suggested that the first part of the meeting be the

information/orientation session and the second part used to discuss the issues. It was also suggested that a diagram be provided of how all the project fit together.

7. Next Meeting - Project managers were asked to bring stories, and people, if possible. Jackie will follow-up on getting pictures of project managers on the update reports. It was suggested that part of the time be used to get to know each other, experiences, and what they bring to the meeting. Joe suggested showing a 30-minute video from Disability Today that includes personal stories.

8. Other

- The Self-Direction Conference is in June. Rob gave out the brochures for the conference. Consumers may be funded by the Office.
- ADAPT - next meeting is June 10, 1:30 - 3:30 at the Carriage Lane apartment complex. Contact Laura Hall for further information. Hallau2@msu.edu , (517) 337-3098.
- Consumer Task Force Executive Committee - next meeting is June 4, 1:00 - 3:00, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
- Michigan Partners for Freedom - next meeting is June 24, 9:00am, at the Central United Methodist Church. Contact Rob Curtner for further information. CurtnerR@michigan.gov ,(517) 335-8710

Next meetings: May 22, 2007, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of
Community Mental Health Boards

June 26, 2007, 10:00 - noon, Michigan Association of
Community Mental Health Boards