

Consumer Task Force
April 24, 2007
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
10:00 am - noon
MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Tandy Bidinger, Jacqui Day, Sara Harrison, Susan Steinke, Michael Daschlein, Joe Longcor, Marion Owen, Rob Curtner, Kate White, Ruth Smith, RoAnne Chaney, Tari Muñoz, Carolyn Brown, Orystine Gully, Jill Gerrie, Mary Ablan, Yuself Seegers, Laura Hall, John Jokish, Alison Hirschel

Minutes - Minutes were approved. There was explanation that the Self Determination Leadership Seminar was cancelled, not the Self Determination Conference scheduled for June 11 & 12.

Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services Update - Michael D reported that due to current state budget status, many things are on hold or moving very slowly, including the 5 ½ positions for the office through the Money Follows the Person and Systems Transformation grants.

Concern was expressed about recent LTC Commission appointments and whether positions designated for primary/secondary consumers were filled by provider agency representatives. This led to further discussion about the process for filling the appointments. It was suggested that letters from partner agencies be sent to the appointment office to ensure that seat now open due to the passing of Jim Francis-Bohr be filled by a consumer. It was respectfully suggested by the Consumer Task Force that the Office of LTC SS engage in extensive discussion with the governor's appointment office to ensure that consumer seats are filled by consumers. The CTF will create a list of potential primary/secondary consumers and provide to the office.

Brief Project Updates/Issues/Discussions

MIG – Joe Longcor referred to his report and noted that next month issue table will be updated and limited to recent developments. He was asked if transitioning youth were using Freedom to Work. This is unknown right now, but would be useful to track.

Self Determination in MIChoice - Tari Muñoz requested referrals of consumers to participate in the Person Centered Planning sessions organized regionally for MI Choice waiver agents.

Independence Plus/Money Follows the Person - Rob Curtner reported that the concept paper for the managed care waiver has been written and shared with the Medicaid office. It will go the federal government – CMS, Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services -- next. The CTF will be able to see it prior to submission. Discussion ensued regarding the level of consumer involvement in this process, particularly the Olmstead group. There is strong interest in further involvement for the rest of this process.

Structure of the Consumer Task Force - This led to a dialogue on consumer involvement and “push-back” from providers and the perception that there needs to be balance between consumer and provider participations. It is believed that this assumption erodes consumer participation.

Michael D gave a brief history of the Consumer Task Force. It was formed in 2000 as requirement for federal grants. The purpose has been to review MDCH (Michigan Department of Community Health) grant activities. This is part of a national movement to increase consumer involvement. Several states have been working on this to change the role of consumers from token to meaningful. How could things be different for our CTF? It was determined a change is needed. It was agreed that the best of our meetings are when we are brainstorming on proposals and projects together. The written reports lead to decreased discussions. There is concern about role of consumers in implementing

the grants. The information provided is appreciated. Process involves conflict and that is alright. The video, “When CPIGS Fly” was suggested as a resource. It will be reviewed as a group at the next meeting. First, more consumers are needed for the Task Force. There were 5 at the table for the meeting. The terms need to be defined, especially around secondary consumers. The agenda should be more outcome-oriented. Consumers have knowledge others don’t, but without input from the state there is no understanding of how the system works. Collaboration is important. Positive change will lead to increased quality of life. Consumers need more education about the long-term care system. Consumer leadership needs to be developed and supported with help in preparing for meetings and with follow-up activities. There are established networks like the CILs, MDRC, and the ARCs that talk to each other about LTC issues.

It was determined that consumer leadership of the CTF would be an important step in moving forward as voice of consumers in grant activity. All were supportive of the proposal for consumer-leadership. Prior to this year, there was more money available for outreach, informational presentation, local organizing, training, orientation, and support. Unfortunately, there is no longer the same level of funding pre-meeting supports. This funding was through the first Money Follows the Person grant and has run its course. We could use volunteers/mentors/support to follow-up with consumers after meetings to meet some of these needs. Older consumers remain a challenge. Are there other organizations we can connect with to increase the involvement of elder consumers? There is also a need for earlier involvement prior to policy development as opposed to mostly reacting to developed initiatives. Consumers will talk to each other when they may not attend meetings. Perhaps outreach at senior centers could happen where we go to them and ask them about their issues.

Laura Hall was nominated for chair of the Consumer Task Force by Verna Spayth. The vote in support of Laura as chair was unanimous.

Laura asked for volunteers for an Executive Committee that would help plan meetings and support consumer leadership of the group. The volunteers included RoAnne Chaney, Yuself Seegers, Jacqui Day, Verna Spayth, and Sarah Harrison. There was discussion about consumers meeting prior to the Task Force meetings or making the meetings longer. There is work to be done to define the group's terms and timelines for information and decisions.

Pay for performance in health was brought up. This could be a huge issue. Alison Hirschel will raise concerns to the Medicaid Advisory committee.

Person-Centered Planning Guidelines - No comments were made.

LTC Connections - Logic Model Action Plan - No comments were made.

Other business

- A new Lansing chapter of ADAPT is being organized. The first meeting will be May 6, 2007, at 1:30. Contact Laura for more information (laura@dnmichigan.org).
- The 20th annual AAA conference will be May 30 & 31, 2007. Mary Ablan distributed the program at the meeting and via email. There is funding through MDRC to support consumers attending the conference.

Next meetings:

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

June 22, 2007 (due to State holiday), 10:00 – noon, Michigan
Association of Community Mental Health Boards