

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2006
AREA 10**

In Attendance:

Jean Sherman

Jim Mesler

Andrea Friedman

Barbara Wessels

Robert Goodman

Rebecca Williams

Carol Rudinsky

Bonnie Florom

The meeting was called to order by chairperson, Jean Sherman. The committee has been on hiatus since last May.

We discussed possible reorganization of our goals. Jean stated that 16% of the individuals who receive services in the State are neglected per Delmarva statistics presented at a recent IQC meeting. These statistics are backed up by over two years of data.

The committee is concerned that there are a great many incidents that are not being reported. There is also concern about the methods used to interview people involved in reported incidents and how this impacts on the outcome of investigations.

The committee is also concerned about safety and security and feel that these issues are hand in hand with issues of neglect and abuse.

The lack of dentists and specialty physicians continues to be a major issue in Area 10. Many of the specialty physicians are not willing to accept Medicaid. The committee also feels that the dentists do not understand the Medicaid Waiver process and billing. We will be attempting to find a dental professional who will assist us in educating dentists about both the Waiver and the people who will be seeking services. Barbara will contact Pennia Popper to request the name of a retired dentist who may be able to assist us.

Current available specialists were discussed. Cleveland Clinic in Weston is receptive to assisting Medicaid recipients. Jim stated that they do have an excellent Neurologist who is familiar with the people who would need services. The Memorial system has a nurse who is a Disabilities Consultant. The hospital also has an excellent Pediatric area. We will be working on getting this information widely spread throughout the

The committee feels that we would like to have a system for explaining Medical Advocates and how to get one for anyone who wants one. Jean reported that there is a

training being held on 11/18 to assist with explanations about guardianship and advocates. A large mailing has been done to inform people of this upcoming training.

Bonnie stated that APD is hopefully increasing its training and quality staff over the next year. The focus will be on offering more education and training to providers along with technical assistance.

The committee would like to see Delmarva monitor different aspects of services. They would like to ensure that all providers have a record of doctor's visits for people who receive services. Some providers carry a form to each doctor's visit that is filled out by the doctor and signed. We would like to see this procedure carried out throughout the Area.

We would also like to see a checklist for vans. Drivers need to report problems to their agencies to ensure that the vans are safe. They also need to fill out trip inspection forms.

After reviewing all of the above ideas, it was agreed that we would like to focus on the issues of health and safety. Continuity and security will also be a focus for this committee.

Our voting committee has ensured the registration and training of 48 individuals. This project will continue and Ad Hoc members will be used to address any issues.

Bonnie announced that there will be Yellow Book training with Melinda Coulter from Central Office on 11/4/06 at the Tamarac Library.

We will be forming a committee to address the issues with dentists. This group will be responsible for developing a survey and letter to give to the Waiver Support Coordinators so that a baseline can be developed to assist with measuring progress towards dental and medical care.

It was agreed that we will meet every other month. The next meeting is on December 4, 2006 from 10:00-12:00 in room 104 B at the 201 building.