

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Area 12 Quality Steering Committee

January 24, 2008

STEERING COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Joe Paul, ARC (Steering Committee Chair)

Tammy Gillis, RHD

Mark Hansan, Steering Committee

Corie Hatcher, WSC

Shawn McLaughlin, Provider

Gail Varnado, APD

Micky Beauregard, UCP

Edwin De Bardeleben, APD

Frank Gonzales, MWS

Dylan Gale, APD

Beth Townsend, Delmarva Foundation

Shiela Butler, Delmarva Foundation

Diveka Anderson, APD

Lynn Kennedy, One Voice for Volusia

Mary Medina, Medina Enterprises

Charlene Johnson, Delmarva

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Paul called the meeting to order at 10:12AM

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made and with everyone announcing the organizations they represented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Micky Beauregard motioned to approve the October meeting minutes seconded by Corie Hatcher. The motion carried.

IV. BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Small Group Updates

a. Dental Services

Chair Paul reported that the small dental group had met and had a very good turnout. They were able to look at the needs of the individuals in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The group thought that it would be a good idea to have an insurance provider enrolled as a Medwaiver provider. Chair Paul met with Sandy Dunn an insurance provider who has agreed to come and speak with the committee. Depending on his schedule Chair Paul would like to invite Mr. Dunn to attend the April Steering Committee meeting.

Micky Beauregard advised that she had connected with Area 4 to see what their strategy is to enroll dental providers. The ARC in ST. Johns County has a grant which helps to pay for the dental hygienist to procure the dentists in that area. The work group had discussed researching different grants and is looking at ways to facilitate them.

The workgroup was looking at the enrollment process in two different ways. There are a lot of people that are not on the waiver and if an inexpensive dental insurance could be found either on or off the waiver that could be facilitated through a process then it should be tried. There are several individuals who are working who may be able to pay twenty-dollars a month and get dental care and would not have to worry about the waiver or waiting for six months. to get care. On the other hand the group is looking at dentist becoming medwaiver providers for individuals on the waiver.

b. Increasing providers in other areas

Sandra Mills reported that the group met on October 25th with the main premise of reaching out to providers of physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy etc. through the medwaiver but are not actually providing these services. Corie Hatcher has drafted 2-letters and Sandra will identify providers of these services and ask if they are willing to expand into Area 12 or take on more consumers.

Ed De Bardeleben advised that they look at the providers' Delmarva scores to see if they are eligible to expand. Charlene Johnson will see if she can get the data together.

V. DISCUSSION

a. Clarification of waiver changes; day activity-

Ed De Bardeleben reported the following:

The Agency is in the process of promulgating changes as directed by the Florida Legislator to the Medwaiver Services Handbook. The changes can be viewed by visiting the Agency website. With specifics to Meaningful Day Activities the hours have been reduced from 35 to 30. There are 5 services that are being eliminated however; the definition of services are being expanded, for example companion services will be included as part of meaningful day activities.

The Legislature has allocated 75 OPS positions to conduct needs assessments. Area 12 has successfully interviewed and hired 3 Needs Assessors. This took effect January 4, 2008 and the Assessors completed training on the QSI last week. They will start with all of the individuals in residential facilities and the reviews should be completed by June 30th. There has been a lot of discussion in the Legislature of completing assessments on individuals on the wait list as a way to predict the funding of those individuals transitioning off of the waitlist and onto the waiver.

The area offices will assume the responsibility of completing cost plans. Support Coordinator's will no longer be responsible for cost plans. There is a draft operating procedure being reviewed. More information will be provided as the operating procedure comes into effect.

Jane Johnson has directed APD's central program office to complete a Quality Assurance monitoring to see how area offices are monitoring area facilities. This is to ensure that licensing issues are being addressed. They are looking at developing a statewide tool that is consistent throughout all areas. Ed will share the final report with the Steering Committee.

There is a Senate Appropriations meeting this afternoon to discuss Americo's proposal to have APD managed by them as an HMO. There are a number of agencies opposed to this managed care component. The upcoming Legislative Session is a critical time and all stakeholders are encouraged to stay on top of making sure that their voices are heard.

Jane Johnson, Agency Director will be visiting on February 7th and presenting at the Family Care Council and quarterly provider meetings.

The area office has had to terminate several providers who have not met quality assurance standards. The Provider Development unit has been conducting audits of consumer central records and some of the findings have been alarming. There were major issues with required documentation missing from the files, lack of follow through, leadership and oversight. There has been some concern with potential fraud. The Provider Development Unit has drafted a Waiver Support Coordinator File Checklist to be released to support coordinators so that they may self audit. The unit will be conducting random audits each year in hopes that quality improves in the area.

Corie Hatcher along with a couple of the other Medwaiver providers will be recognized at the upcoming quarterly provider meeting for providing exceptional work. Mr. De Bardeleben is hoping to provide recognition on a quarterly basis to those providers doing exceptional work.

b. Community Snap Shot data

Lynn Kennedy, One Voice for Volusia reported on the Community Agenda Snapshot booklet. The motivation behind the work was to create a data-based picture of health and social trend and conditions to be reviewed, revised and updated every year. Ms. Kennedy spoke about the goal of the initiative, indicators and how to use the report.

c. Clarification on abuse reporting

Diveka Anderson advised that all present were mandated reporters of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Abuse reports can be called in, faxed or submitted online. Death and sexual misconduct are considered critical incident and should be submitted to the program office within 24-hours. The Area 12 incident reporting protocol can be found on the APD web site.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.