

**Coordinating Subcommittee for Division of Developmental Disabilities  
(Meeting Summary)  
February 3, 2015**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services met at the AIDT Center. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Courtney W. Tarver, Associate Commissioner.

**Voting Members Present**

Jeffery E. Williams, ADMH/DD Representative  
Jo Poates, AAMRDD Representative  
Earl Brightwell, AAMRDD Representative  
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Providers Representative  
Terry Pezent, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Wade Reese, ACE/Arc Representative  
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative

**Visitors**

James Tucker, ADAP  
Lou Vick, The Arc of Walker County  
Daphne Rosalis, ADMH/DD  
Connie Batiste, ADMH/DD  
Byron White, ADMH/DD  
Dianne Durbin, ADMH/Advocacy  
John VanCamp, NWAMHC  
George Neal, ADMH/DD  
Byron White, ADMH/DD  
Chris Stewart, The Arc of Jefferson County  
Ed Dorsey, DHCIDB  
Beverly Hudson, ADMH/DD  
Patti Martin, ADMH/DD  
JoAnn Bennett, ADMH/DD  
Eleanor Tolbert, ADMH/DD  
Joe Carter, Glenwood  
Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama  
Chris Ballard, People First of Alabama  
Gary Edwards, UCP Birmingham  
Karen Stokes, The Arc of Shelby County  
Carolyn Little, Little CRF, LLC  
Rose Hill, Hill CRF, LLC  
Glendie Davis, Davis CRF, LLC  
Jess Butrica, Autauga/Western Elmore Arc.

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

**Approval of January 6, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Reese, and the motion was approved.

## Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Mr. Reese. The motion was approved.

## Associate Commissioner's Report

- In addition to the distributed report, the following items were noted:
- In reference to the submitted waiver, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services received questions back from CMS regarding monitoring issues. A response was submitted to Medicaid.
- There is an anticipation of distributing budget information to the subcommittee by the end of this week.
- It is with great sadness that Jeff Ridgeway passed. Mr. Ridgeway was a very passionate leader and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. The wake will be held tonight in Athens, and the funeral will be held tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Contributions and gifts are requested to be donated to the Jeff Ridgeway Funds, in care of People First of Alabama, at 1200 Timberwood Lane, Jasper, Alabama 35504.
- The following update on Managed Care was provided. The Medicaid Managed Care Workgroup comprised of leaders from other state agencies, with Associate Commissioner (AC) Tarver being a member. The workgroup is chaired by Dr. Williamson and Commissioner Azar. The workgroup plan which will outline the structure of long term care is due to the Legislature by April 1, 2015. At the workgroup's February 2, 2015 meeting, AC Tarver did a presentation outlining the Division's past, present, and what is needed in order to move the Division forward in the future. At the workgroup meeting, he also gave an overview of the "Money Follow the Person" grant and the "ACT II" waiver which painted a clearer picture about how the DD system operates under the waivers. The workgroup seems to be moving to consensus on reporting to the Legislature that this is not a cost control problem, this is a revenue problem. The next Managed Care Workgroup meeting will be held February 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Medicaid Auditorium, on the second floor. At this meeting, there will be two presentations from the Nursing Home Association and American Association of Retired People (AARP). The Nursing Home Association presentation will be a pitch for delivery of services and the AARP presentation will be focused on the national trends for managed care which is mainly about elderly services and what managed care is all about. The RCO model will not work for the DD side of the house. Information regarding managed care should be posted on the Alabama Medicaid website by the end of this week. In the past, there was confusion about whether the ACT II Waiver can serve both the DD and MI populations. Initially, the answer was "no" but now the answer is "yes". If anyone thinks that we are not on track with the thought processes in regards to managed care, please let AC Tarver know as soon possible. Mr. Tucker commented that DD's presentation at the managed care workgroup meeting was on target. The biggest point was based on the theme of his presentation which is that appropriate services can be provided in an integrated setting.
- Mr. Tucker shared his thoughts about the managed care issue. He also attended the managed care workgroup meeting and represented ARISE. ARISE is one of the biggest voices that illustrates how our system operates financially. AC Tarver noted that Alabama has been on the forefront of innovations and was one of the first states with an ID waiver. Not many agencies know how our system operates fully from a revenue standpoint.

## Waiver Update

Ms. Rosalis provided an update.

- A response to the questions from CMS regarding the waiver was submitted to Medicaid. The nature of the questions related to performance measures issues and housing coordination issues.

- It was noted that housing services will be provided under the “Money Follow the Person” grant. The housing coordinators will be hired to assist individuals who need homes to sustain employment. Housing services will be billable to place people in affordable housing. The ACT II Waiver will pick up the other individuals who may have DD or MI service needs and not been able to be served in the past with Medicaid dollars.

**Pilot Update**

Mrs. Martin provided an update. The DD Subcommittee’s previous minutes (1/6/15) were corrected to reflect that Cahaba MH is the pilot site for Region III, as indicated. There was a change in Region IV pilot site—it is now Dothan Houston ID Board. The pilot sites are indicated as follow:

- Region I DeKalb County
- Region II West Alabama
- Region III Cahaba MH
- Region IV Dothan Houston ID Board
- Region V Calhoun Cleburne

The pilot process is moving forward quickly in Region III. This Region had all of its required meetings and also completed the required four day training. The other regions need to attend the four day Personal Outcome Measures (POM) training sessions. Thanks were given to Mr. Williams and Mrs. Batiste for providing the POM training. Providers who are not specifically assigned to a pilot are welcome to be a part of the four day POM training. As soon as the meeting dates are prepared, information will be disseminated so that pilot site visits can be made. Mrs. Martin is in the process of reviewing schedules.

Mr. Tucker noted that Barbara Lawrence, Delshonda Thomas, Jenny Ryan, Dave Slawkowski, and he are the designees for ADAP. Also, ADAP has conducted its in-house training and is in the process of recruiting people to work with them.

**Waiting List Update**

Mr. Williams provided an update. The waiting list status and waiting list by county data were disseminated to everyone:

Currently waiting: 3188  
 Status 1 – Waiting, no services provided 2,134  
 Status 2 – Waiting partially served 962  
 Status 3 – Waiting, no services, not critical 38  
 Status 4 – Waiting, partially served, not critical 54

- Status 2 category is not critical in that the majority of these individuals are requesting long-term care. Status 3 and Status 4 did not change this quarter. Fifty-four (54) individuals were added to the waiting list this quarter. In May 2015, there will be plans to serve 75 individuals on the waiting list and also serve 75 individuals in October 2015. Hopefully, starting October 2015, this will probably be done on a quarterly basis. Many waiting list requests are for in-home supports.
- Mr. Tucker commented there are others in the state who don’t quite understand the DD concept on delivering services in an integrated home setting in a practical and financial fashion. It is important for the subcommittee and visitors attending this subcommittee meeting to widely communicate this idea.
- Inquiries were made about the total number of ID and LAH waiver slots. A discussion was held.
- In addition to the waiting list update, Mr. Williams related that he participated in the person-centered

training with Region IV staff and family members. In the future, this will be a great opportunity to take advantage of meeting time to recertify people for Personal Outcome Measures (POM) training. Currently, all of his QE staff members are now POM Qualified Analysts.

- The Call Center data was requested. This data will be presented at the next meeting by Mrs. Martin.

### **Employment Update**

Mr. White provided an update.

- The Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) implementing the US Department of Labor Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant are doing a great job in the seven regional geographic areas to which they are assigned.
- Project Search continues to grow. A meeting was held with the National Project Search Organization, and they also conducted a two-day training session for teachers and job coaches in Montgomery, January 27-28, 2015.
- Baldwin County was recognized for 100% job placement. Marshall and Etowah counties are working toward becoming future Project Search sites and Mobile County is developing a second site. Public transportation and lunch are current issues with Project Search, and these issues are being reviewed.
- VOA wanted a second site for thirty (30) or forty (40) individuals, but only twelve (12) individuals can be accommodated. So far, this will put DDD to ten (10) Project Search Sites. The Veterans Administration (VA) is the site for Tuscaloosa, and its Open House was held in January. The Tuscaloosa site developed a video, and it was submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Administration. All students have placement already. Fairhope Project Search already has hired an employee.
- The Project Gate Program is progressing. There are two (2) new programs, UCP of Birmingham and VOA/Mobile added to this model. UCP will be utilizing CVS and VOA will be utilizing Crowne Products. Several more provider agencies have expressed interest in the Project Gate Program. Further updates on UCP and VOA will be provided as they progress. The Jackson County Arc was the first Project Gate site, and it was very successful.
- Mr. White provided an overview of how the braiding of services functions between VR and DDD for waiver recipients who get paid for work experience works in this program.
- The Interagency Employment First Team continues to meet monthly. Alabama was recently awarded a grant for the "Core State" Project. Therefore, we are working with a total of five SMEs and will continue to provide updates on the project.
- There will be a three-day training for job coaches and job developers about the employment process hosted by ADMH/DD and funded by VR. Providers are urged to attend the training. In addition, Ms. Rosalis noted that job developers are required to have the training for certification in order to bill that service in the waiver. Mr. White added that in November 2014, the National AL-APSE sponsored an exam for job developer/job coach certification. Several individuals took the exam, and another exam will be given during the Fall of 2015.
- The AL-APSE Conference will be held June 17-19, 2015, in Mobile Alabama. Additional information will be distributed in the near future.

### **Old and New Business**

- The new Director of Community Services has not been confirmed yet. The paperwork is in Human Resources.
- Discussion was held on local match use. It still does not look promising due to the requirement of the money being in a state match pool is still being considered. In reference to the local match aggressiveness issue, there has been some review and research.

- Dr. Edwards inquired about the DDD using a new data/payment system. It was noted that DDD is not looking at deleting ADIDIS. DDD is just reviewing the possibility of exploring a supplemental products and making sure that we attempt to remain as compatible as possible with providers purchasing new data/record/billing systems.

### **Announcements**

- The Arc of Alabama is hosting Advocacy Days throughout the Legislative Session. Hopefully, by next week, the link will be on the Arc of Alabama website regarding Advocacy Days.
- Ms. Ellis noted that the Employment First Bill will be in Honor of Jeff Ridgeway.
- Mr. Tucker thanked AC Tarver for speaking at the ADAP Advisory Boards meeting. There will be an ADAP Public State Meeting, Friday, February 20, 2015, in Prattville, Alabama. More details about the meeting will be distributed in the near future.
- Dr. Edwards provided information about the Disability Leadership Coalition. All managed care RCOs have submitted RFPs. Diva Healthcare hired 400 health care coordinators, they have very strong RCOs. They are looking at October 2015 for services to begin. Charter school will be discussed at their next Coalition meeting. AC Tarver requested an update and an overview in order to provide people a better understanding Alabama's intended new managed care healthcare.

### **Next Meeting**

The next DD Subcommittee Meeting will be held March 3, 2015, at ADRS.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

  
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Courtney W. Tarver, Associate Commissioner  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

  
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Shirley Hicks  
Recorder