

**Coordinating Subcommittee for Division of Developmental Disabilities  
(Meeting Summary)  
April 7, 2015**

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

**Voting Members Present**

Jo Poates, AAMRDD Representative  
Earl Brightwell, AAMRDD Representative  
Wallace Davis (Terry Bartlett), Other Providers Representative  
Myra Jones (Hollie Cawthorne), Alabama Council DD  
Terry Pezent, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Brittany Gore, People First of Alabama  
Wade Reese, ACE/Arc Representative  
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative

**Visitors**

Laurel Land, Visitor- Presentation on Transportation  
James Tucker, ADAP  
Lou Vick, the Arc of Walker County  
Daphne Rosalis, ADMH/DD  
Beatrice McLean, ADMH/DD  
Penny Rozell, ADMH/DD  
Byron White, ADMH/DD  
Dianne Durbin, ADMH/Advocacy  
John VanCamp, NWAMHC  
LaSaundra Foster/ADMH/DD  
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  
Barbara Huguley, ADMH/DD  
Sharon Waddle, ADMH/DD  
Patricia McClanahan, ADMH/DD  
Susan Ford, ADMH/DD  
Greg Carlson, Glenwood  
Eleanor Tolbert, ADMH/DD  
Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama  
Chris Ballard, People First of Alabama  
Karen Stokes, The Arc of Shelby County  
Carolyn Little, Little CRF, LLC  
Rose Hill, Hill CRF, LLC  
Suzanne Smith, DMH/DD  
Pat Caldwell, ADMH/DD  
Pam Hudson, ADMH/DD  
Cynthia Daniel, ADMH/DD

### **Visitors (continue)**

Jess Butrica, Autauga/Western Elmore Arc.  
LaChera Church, ADMH/DD  
Andy Slate/ADMH/DD  
Barbara Brunson, ADMH/DD  
David Ziskind, ADMH/DD  
Zane Welch, PHP of Alabama  
Roger Kalonick, ADMH/DD  
Anthony Couch, ADMH/DD  
Rebekah (Becky) Matthews, ADMH/DD  
Peggy Kates, ADMH/DD

### **Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

### **Approval of February 3, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

Corrections were noted to Jess Butrica's name (listed under the visitors section of the minutes). A motion was made to adopt the minutes as corrected, and the motion was properly seconded and approved.

### **Agenda**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as distributed. The motion passed.

### **Transportation Needs Assessment**

Ms. Land, Project Manager, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham Transportation, gave a brief presentation about their transportation project needs. Their focus is to assess transportation needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Alabama Council of Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) gave them a grant to conduct a statewide transportation needs assessment and determine viable transportation options. Because HIPAA laws prevent her from contacting individuals directly, her agency has to rely on providers' assistance with this project. Their strategy is to compile research from public meetings and surveys, and their goal is to work with agencies and tap into the already existing meetings to communicate and distribute information in the individual counties. Information regarding the transportation project was distributed, and it was requested that it be posted on the providers and advocacy agencies websites. Providers were asked to complete the transportation survey posted on [www.rpcgb.org/transportation/dd](http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/dd). Mr. Carlson conveyed that the 5310 Transportation Program that Ms. Land directs in Birmingham is a great program.

### **Associate Commissioner's Report**

In addition to the distributed report, a summary of the Legislative Budget meeting was presented. The Department of Mental Health, along with Alabama Medicaid and The Department of Corrections, were the only three agencies who were proposed in Governor's Bentley's recommended budget for increase. Further legislative budget information was shared with the group.

Legislators have requested budget impact statements from agencies reflecting three scenarios that equate for DD Division contract cuts to a reduction of 11%, 19%, and 21%. DD providers who receive a contract from ADMH were asked to submit impact statements to legislators reflecting the scenarios based on an individual agency basis with copies to the DD Division for discussions with legislators.

A discussion was held. Attendees expressed concerns. It was commented that not only would a budget reduction impact the closure of programs, it would also impact ADMH/DD's compliance with federal laws under the ID Waiver. Mr. Tucker commented if 5,000 waiver slots are maintained and services are reduced to waiver recipients, there is a possible risk at violating the law and possible suits.

The waiver is an entitlement to eligible individuals, and they will have legitimate claims if their slots are cut. The legislators don't necessarily understand that once a state agrees to the conditions of the waiver, people are entitled to the full range of services under the waiver. By law, services cannot be reduced to individuals under the waiver, but everyone needs to describe the impact of budget reductions in order to convey to the Legislature a better understanding. It was suggested that families communicate to the Legislature what will happen if their child loses his/her waiver slot or what will happen if programs close.

A letter will be sent to all providers from AC Tarver regarding the budget impact statement request. Responses are needed by the end of the week.

### **Waiver**

With the nature of the changes in services under the waiver renewal, training is an important requirement before it is implemented. We need to engage individuals around person centered-planning and develop a timeline for training that providers and staff. Information will be sent out. Poates suggested September 1, 2015, as the implementation date, due to the ADIDIS change. September 1, 2015 was the consensus of the members and attendees.

New information on the waiver renewal is posted on ADMH/DD website, on the DD Community Services page. Appendix C has the new definition of services. Ways regarding how to convert existing services from per diem and units will be addressed.

### **Pilots Update**

The meaningful day pilot schedule is now available. Please note that the schedule lists the names of individuals, their person-centered planning meetings, the regions, location of meetings, and the individuals' case managers' names. Please email Mrs. Martin if you plan to attend the 2-day meeting. Also if agencies have anyone listed on the schedule, please prepare a cost analysis for increased times for meetings. The first round will be a two day event. Future year's updates to plans should generally not take as long.

Copies of the current definition of case management services were distributed to everyone for review and feedback. The current definition contains feedback from stakeholders, advocacy groups, and national organizations. Please forward feedback to Mrs. Martin at [patti.martin@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:patti.martin@mh.alabama.gov). Next month, a vote will be taken on the recommended systemic description of case managers' responsibilities. Case management services mean different things to different agencies but the definition needs to be standardized since it will become a key foundation for the system.

### **Call Center**

Mrs. Rozell disseminated copies of data related to the Call Center. She entertained and addressed inquiries regarding the number of staff and the type of duties performed by call center staff in addition to their phone duties.

## Waiting List

Waiting list update/data was distributed regarding:

- Unduplicated Count of Individuals Serviced by County
- Waiting List Number Waiting for Services by County

## Announcements

- Beatrice McClean was introduced as the new Director of DD Community Programs.
- Barbara Hughley was introduced as the new Director of Region II DD Community Services.
- ADAP Public – DD and MI Advisory Meeting will be held May 1, 2015 10:00-1:30 p.m. at AIDT. Thanks were given to Associate Commissioner Tarver and Ms. Gore for speaking at the last meeting.
- The Disability Conference will be held October 28-30, 2015, in Orange Beach, Alabama. The Call for Presenters will be sent in the near future.
- The Legislative Advocates Information Brochures were distributed.
- The process of drafting the ACT II Waiver has begun. This waiver is for people in nursing homes with 90-day stays and beyond. This waiver currently has 200 slots, and Medicaid is thinking about increasing the capacity. The grant is for 600 individuals, with 400 of the 600 allotted to individuals potentially being served through all seven of Medicaid's existing waiver programs.
- With the Money Follows the Person Grant, hopefully by this Friday, the Housing Coordinator position will be announced. Also, the Transition Specialists and Housing Specialists will soon follow, and they will be based in the Regional Offices, serving all populations in the Money Follows the Person Program.

## Other Business

Mr. White noted there are a few slots left for job coach training. With the employment initiatives, this training is very important.

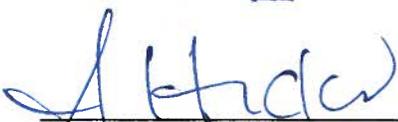
## Next Meeting

The next DD Subcommittee Meeting will be held May 5, 2015, at ADRS.

## Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

  
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Courtney W. Tarver, Associate Commissioner  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

  
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Shirley Hicks  
Recorder