

**Coordinating Subcommittee for Division of Developmental Disabilities  
(Meeting Summary)  
May 5, 2015**

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

**Voting Members Present**

Jeff Williams, ADMH/DD  
Jo Poates, AAMRDD Representative  
Earl Brightwell, AAMRDD Representative  
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Providers Representative  
Myra Jones, Alabama Council DD  
Terry Pezent, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Brittany Gore, People First of Alabama  
Wade Reese, ACE/Arc Representative  
Anne Penney (Jim Dill), Alabama Council Representative

**Visitors**

James Tucker, ADAP  
Giren Gadd, ADAP  
Gary Edwards, UCP  
Lou Vick, the Arc of Walker County  
Donna Foster, Future Living  
Connie Batiste, ADMH/DD  
Daphne Rosalis, ADMH/DD  
Beatrice McLean, ADMH/DD  
Penny Rozell, ADMH/DD  
Carolyn Little, Little CRF, LLC  
Rose Hill, Hill CRF, LLC  
Glendie Davis, Davis CRF  
Devin D. Nobles, Nobles Group Homes, Inc.  
George Neal, ADMH/DD  
Chris Stewart, The Arc of Jefferson County  
Ed Dorsey, DHCIDB  
Beverly Hudson, ADMH/DD  
Barbara Huguley, ADMH/DD  
Rebekah (Becky) Mathews, ADMH/DD  
Greg Carlson, Glenwood  
Eleanor Tolbert, ADMH/DD  
Chris Ballard, People First of Alabama  
Karen Stokes, The Arc of Shelby County  
Jess Butrica, AWE/Arc  
Brooks Greene, Arc of Jefferson County  
Vicki Hicks Turnage, AAWA

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

## **Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Gore to accept the agenda as distributed, and Mr. Brightwell seconded motion. The motion was approved.

## **Approval of April 7, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Brightwell made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ferguson. The motion was approved.

## **Associate Commissioner (AC) Report**

In addition to the distributed report, a recapitulation of the ongoing legislative budget hearings was presented. Given the current budget crisis, the subcommittee was assured that Commissioner Reddoch continues to engage the legislature.

Appreciation was extended to the providers who submitted their agencies' budget impact statements. It was essential to share this information with legislators. ADAP, The Arc, VOA, 310 Boards, UCP, ACMH, People First of Alabama, other advocacy agencies and stakeholders were acknowledged for engaging and providing direct feedback to legislature.

Further budget discussion was held and concerns were expressed about the impact of budget cuts. With the current funding situation, an inquiry was posed about new providers being certified on a continuous basis and whether this could be a possible budget issue. It was explained that certifying all willing and able providers is a requirement. ADMH is constantly looking at ways to improve that process. Further budget discussion was held.

Dr. Dill recapped the town hall meeting he attended last night at the Mental Health Center in Florence, Alabama. During the town hall meeting, individuals shared sad testimonies about their experiences of denial of waiver services. From what he perceived, most families who apply for services basically wanted somewhere for their family members to socialize or participate in a meaningful day program. He intended to meet with other advocacy agencies and develop a plan instead of relying solely on the waiver. From what he gathered, there are some individuals who need the waiver, but there are also some individuals who need services who don't qualify for the waiver but can be funded through other sources. AC Tarver noted that the meaningful day pilots are ongoing to assist with examining various options that we will incorporate as we transition services over the next four years. Also, Ms. Pezent remarked this whole big picture equates to person centered planning.

AC Tarver added if funding is not increased, the ADMH/DD system is still gearing toward providing meaningful day services to individuals. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act have resources available, and the whole intent of ADA is to get individuals integrated fully into their communities.

Dr. Dill clarified that his remarks were mainly aimed at the waiting list process. Individuals who apply for services should not have to wait forever to receive services. He also stated that individuals live and die in the state of Alabama waiting on services. Ms. Pezent explained providers are not supplied a list of individuals who are on the waiting list. Only case management agencies are supplied this list.

## **Waiver Transition Update**

Ms. Rosalis provided an update. The waiver renewal and training materials have been posted on the ADMH/DD Community Program website. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the waiver webinar, view the waiver

video, and print out the waiver power point material posted on the website. Medicaid is in the process of creating the new services codes. Also, training regarding converting per diem to unit services will be provided. Currently, a Medicaid cheat sheet for designed services is being prepared.

Mr. Brightwell presented inquiries and a scenario regarding the complexity of converting a 2-hour service to 15 minute increments. Mr. Slate suggested that perhaps allocating so many units annually will be the solution. A discussion was held.

Mr. Brightwell also inquired about the issue related to the July billing. Mr. Slate indicated July is billed in August, and the rates will not be entered in July. Mr. Brightwell does not comprehend the rationale behind why the codes are not entered into the system by DD staff as they receive them.

There was a discussion about the documentation protocol recommended by Medicaid on each individual—is there a recommended format for the 15 minute unit. For example, a bus driver picking up individuals, this level of documentation is different than Day Hab. At the request of Mrs. McLean, it was agreed that documenting manually on the Plan of Care (POC) for now will suffice.

Ms. Rosalis will contact Medicaid regarding further clarification about the 15 minute increment documentation. All questions regarding the waiver renewal are being collected through regional office. Ms. McLean noted that once the waiver inquiries are collected through the community services directors, the compilation of the questions will be channeled through her for process.

### **Case Management Definition**

Mrs. Rozell presented the case management definition before the subcommittee for approval. Mr. Williams pointed out that the definition is acceptable but there needs to be a way to define the POC as being continuous in the case management definition must be taken into consideration because the unit modification affects the whole process. Perhaps, a chunk of units can be set aside annually. A discussion was held in regards to how Medicaid's protocol for POC is non-flexible and rigid.

Mr. Williams moved that in the last paragraph of the case management definition that the phrase, "must initiate" be revised to "who advocate". Ms. Poates seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Meaningful Day Update Pilot**

Mrs. Rozell updated the group on the pilots. The Person-Centered Planning (PCP) schedules were updated, and so far there have been six PCP meetings. The meetings have been successful with great consumer involvement. The subcommittee was asked to ensure that everyone in the pilot area was there to participate in the meetings. Mr. Tucker noted that the Anniston group did a great job. The two days investment were worth it, and there are five more to go. As noted, representatives from the Office of Quality Enhancement will be there to assist with questions at the meetings.

AC Tarver extended appreciation to everyone who played a role in implementing the planning meetings and training.

### **Quality Council Quarterly Meeting**

Mr. Williams conducted his Quarterly Council Meeting. Handouts were distributed.

### **Waiting List**

Waiting list data was distributed, to include the waiting list by county. To date the waiting list status is 3,193. A breakdown of the status of waiting, January-March quarterly status was provided. An inquiry was made about the number of slots available. A discussion was held.

### **Old Business**

AC Tarver informed the subcommittee that the final SELN Report was received February 2015, and it has now been posted on ADMH/DD website under the Supported Employment Link, entitled "SELN Findings and Observation Report". Comments are appreciated. Over time, other employment related information will be posted on the link. Hopefully by the end of the year, we will have further recommendations on refining and building rates based on what we pay for service in our rates.

### **New Business**

Ms. Pezent provided information about the Statewide Mental Health Disability Awareness Campaign. The proposed budget cuts will have a significant impact on current and future services. Town hall meetings will be held throughout the state so that individuals will have an opportunity to express how these cuts will impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, and people with substance abuse diagnoses. A list of scheduled public awareness campaign town hall meetings was disseminated to the group.

Dr. Dill gave an overview and summary of the town hall meeting he attended at the Riverbend Center for Mental Health in Florence, Alabama, last night, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 300 individuals attended the meeting, with a balance of mental illness and developmental disabilities population. Families, as well as the Probate Judge and law enforcement voices were heard. To impact and increase the attendance at future town hall meetings, each individual was challenged to bring two individuals and this will have a rippling effect of increased voices being heard. Individuals were also asked to contact their legislators and demand that they do something about the budget.

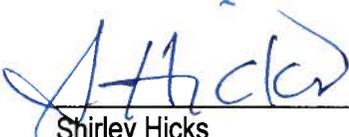
### **Next Meeting**

The next DD Subcommittee Meeting will be held June 2, 2015, at AIDT.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Courtney W. Tarver, Associate Commissioner  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

  
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Shirley Hicks  
Recorder