

**Coordinating Subcommittee for  
Developmental Disabilities Services  
Meeting Summary  
October 4, 2011**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met October 4, 2011 at the AIDT Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order by Ann White-Spunner

**Members Present**

Ann White-Spunner, ADMH/DD Representative  
Willodean Ash, ADMH/DD Representative  
Jeff Williams, ADMH/DD Representative  
Steven Lafreniere, ADMH/DD Representative  
Jim Dill, Alabama Council Representative  
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative  
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative  
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative  
John Morris, ACE/Arc Representative  
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Provider Representative  
Murray Townsend, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Jeff Ridgeway, People First of Alabama Representative  
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer Representative  
Danny Grant, Region I, Consumer Representative  
Katherine Parker (Lou Vick), Region II Family Representative  
Patti Martin, Region 4, Provider Representative  
Bill Hoehle, Region 5, Provider Representative  
Blesses Malone, Region 3, Consumer Representative

**Visitors**

Lee Conner, Greg Carlson, Wendy Dean, Wendy Hicks, Byron White, Michelle Vilamaa, Shannon Byrd, Susan Ford, Anthony Couch, Andy Slate, Wendy Hicks, Regina Savage, Ellen Gillespie, Kimberly Bell, Alicia Weaver, and Renee King Holley.

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

**Approval of August 2, 2011 Minutes (A. White-Spunner)**

September 6, 2011, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval. There was a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded and it passed.

**Agenda (A. White-Spunner)**

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

**Budget (A.Couch/A.Slate/A.White-Spunner)**

Ms. White-Spunner indicated that Commissioner Baugh met with David Perry , State Finance Director, about the budget. She is confident they will come up with some type of resolution. An update from the Commissioner was sent to all providers asking them not to make any drastic changes in services for the 2012 fiscal year and that the Department has been working diligently with the Finance Director and others to overcome the shortfall for 2012. The Commissioner is hopeful about the outcome.

The subcommittee held a discussion about the budget. Mr. Townsend inquired about a copy of next year's budget. Ms. White-Spunner noted she will provide him a copy, but noted Commissioner Baugh has not reviewed it yet.

**Partlow (A. White-Spunner)**

Currently, Partlow census is 66. Five or six individuals will be outplaced into the community by Friday, October 7, 2011. Ms. White-Spunner thanked everyone for their hard work regarding placing individuals into the community.

She related that Mr. Williams and Dr. Ford are working on a transition plan for the unit of the six to eight committed individuals at Partlow.

**Waiting List (A.White-Spunner)**

As noted on the agenda:

Individuals receiving services –	1,659
Individuals partially receiving services -	<u>1,108</u>
Total	2,767

**Status of Transition (S. Lafreniere)**

Mr. Lafreniere indicated that a couple of meetings were held with the Leadership Coalition. The dialogues of the meetings were quite positive, and the discussions were focused on the need to come together as a division. They also discussed in details the things that need to occur as a division regarding the DD population. Transition models of other states are currently being reviewed. There are some significant issues that need to be addressed.

Basically, right now the focus is directed toward gathering and reviewing information. The ultimate intent of the Division's name change is to see how we can include other DD population. Mr. Ridgeway inquired about the timeframe, and Mr. Lafreniere replied there was no timeframe.

Ms. White-Spunner noted that right now we are trying to focus on other opportunities as we shift from an institution setting to a community setting.

The Autism Coordinator announcement was sent out internally. There were four applicants, and out of the four applicants, only two applicants qualified for the position. The external announcement will be sent out in the near future. Hopefully by December, the Autism Coordinator position will be filled.

### **Supported Employment (B. White)**

A two-year grant which enhanced the collaboration between the Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) has been completed. There was some success but not as much as suspected.

The other grant where ADRS provided stimulus money for Pickens and Bibb counties was not too much of a success, and it was not due to individuals not wanting to work. It was due to the unavailability of jobs in the Pickens and Bibb area.

Currently, the Office of Supported Employment is working on a new grant through the DD Council. The Employment First Conference will be sponsored through this grant. This conference will be held some time in 2012. A date has not been determined yet.

The DD Work Group will be reassembled to discuss how supported employment can become more successful. The next meeting will be held November 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the AIDT Center. The work group will also focus on accomplishing a resource guide.

Needs assessments were conducted in the five regions regarding case management and supported employment. Cross training will be done in November and December. Training announcements will be sent out next week.

Mr. White asked members to email him issues or concerns about supported employment so that they can be addressed at the DD Work Group meeting.

Dr. Gillespie inquired about if there were individuals with developmental disabilities participating on the DD work group. If not, she thinks it will be a good idea to include individuals with DD on the work group.

Mr. Townsend commented this is a good opportunity for the DD Work Group to address the issue regarding protecting the slots of the individuals who go to work if the jobs do not work out for them.

Ms. White-Spunner put emphasis on the fact that if we don't do anything about sheltered work shops, the Department of Justice will step in and handle it for us. Dr. Ford agreed and stated we need to think of better solutions instead of having the same mindset. There is no guarantee for anything in life for anyone. The whole point is to teach individuals how to become more independent.

A discussion was held regarding day habilitation and supported employment. Ms. Rosalis pointed out that sheltered work shops can not be paid under the waiver.

Ms. White-Spunner indicated that certification is on-going. A fee of \$1,500 is being implemented for new providers and a \$250 fee will be required for each additional home.

#### **Status of Self-Directed Services (D.Rosalis)**

The waiver amendment was submitted, and it is still being reviewed by CMS. The effective date for self-directed services is March 2012. A lot of training will be conducted regarding self-directed services. The subcommittee held a discussion about personal care, the fiscal intermediary, and families' role under self-directed services.

#### **Legislative Update (S. Byrd)**

Shannon Byrd, substituting for Jane Davis, indicated that the Commissioner will be having town hall meetings throughout the state with legislators, providers, and families. Mrs. Byrd indicated the schedule included the tentative dates and locations of the town hall meetings. She stated that Ms. Davis emailed this information to Mr. Townsend and Dr. Dill yesterday, and she is soliciting feedback and suggestions regarding how to coordinate these meetings.

Mr. Townsend confirmed he received an email from Ms. Davis yesterday, and he shared with the subcommittee his plans regarding the town hall meetings. He indicated that he already contacted the University of North Alabama regarding being a sponsor for the town hall meeting in his area. He further noted that he took the liberty of inviting city leaders, legislators, providers (across the department), and families. He stated he was hoping to have a meeting with the Commissioner and the legislators an hour before the actual public town hall meeting. For example, meet with the Commissioner and legislators at 5:30 p.m. and then meet with the public at 6:30 so that they will have an opportunity to express their concerns and issues.

Dr. Dill indicated that he received an email from Ms. Davis as well, but he thought it was just preliminary information. He related he is unclear about who will be responsible for coordinating the town hall meetings. He will be emailing Ms. Davis some feedback and suggestions.

Dr. Dill further indicated he will suggest to Ms. Davis that agencies such as Advocacy, NAMI, MI/SA Providers, and DD Providers in each area take the lead in coordinating the town hall meetings. Dr. Dill further stated he just received the information yesterday, and it is difficult to coordinate scheduling town hall meetings in such a short timeframe. However, it appears that Mr. Townsend has already had everything set up for his area for his town hall meetings. Mr. Townsend was asked how long he has been planning his town hall meetings, and Mr. Townsend replied he has been working on his town hall meetings for a month.

Other members expressed their concerns about not being aware of the town hall meetings prior to now. Concerns were also expressed regarding whether or not the Department was going to be responsible for coordinating and sponsoring the town hall meeting locations. Dr. Dill asked Mr. Townsend if he was responsible for sending town hall meeting notices out to the Arc because he already sent the notices to his organizations. Mr. Townsend stated he has been telling everybody that he knows about the upcoming town hall meetings because the bigger the turn out the better. If twenty individuals attend the meetings it would be okay; if two hundred individuals attend the meetings it would be better; but if 500 individuals attend the meetings it would be a great success.

Dr. Penney pointed out that the Commissioner mentioned several times in the past that she wanted to meet with the public and the legislators as a whole. Dr. Penney further stated she does not think the meetings should be measured as being a success based on the number of individuals attending because even if only 20 individuals attend a meeting, the same purpose will still be accomplished.

Dr. Dill noted he did not think the email message from Ms. Davis was clear. There need to be more clarification.

### **New Business**

- The Disability Conference starts this week at Perdido Resort. So far, 200 individuals have registered.
- Greg Carlson was welcomed by Ms. White-Spunner.
- Ms. Weaver and Ms. King-Holley, providers from Region II, were also welcomed. Ms. White-Spunner noted that these providers provide

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services to 328 individuals for less than \$100 per day.

**Meeting Adjourned**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held November 1, 2011, at the AIDT Center.