

**Coordinating Subcommittee for
Developmental Disabilities Services
Meeting Summary
September 6, 2011**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met 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
Dianne Durbin, ADMH/Advocacy Representative
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative
Myra Jones, DD Council 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
Elouise Woods, People First of Alabama Representative
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer Representative
Susan Klingel, Region 1 Provider Representative
Danny Grant, Region I, Consumer Representative
John VanCamp, Region II Provider Representative
Katherine Parker (Lou Vick), Region II Family Representative
Patti Martin, Region 4 Provider Representative
Bill Hoehle, Region 5 Provider Representative

Visitors

Barbara Womack, Byron White, Jane Davis, Lee Conner, Susan Ford, Bill Fuller, Anthony Couch, Joey Kreauter, Andy Slate, Ellen Gillespie, Donna Akins, Vicki Hicks-Turnage, Bill Summer, Darren Morris, Sandra Koplun, and George Neal.

Recorder

Shirley Hicks

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

August 2, 2011, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval. The minutes will reflect John Morris as ACE/Arc Representative and Bill Hoehle as Region V, Provider Representative. The minutes will also reflect Daphne Rosalis in attendance. There was a motion, and it was seconded to approve the minutes as modified. The motion 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 (J. Kreauter)

Mr. Kreauter distributed the DD Division's "End of July 2011" budget document which reflected the budgeted revenues; projected revenues; balance (shortfall); budgeted expenditures; projected expenditures; balance (shortfall); and net balance (shortfall).. An overview of each line item was given and a discussion was held. He then distributed a budget handout which reflected the DD-Quick Status Report (ending July 30, 2011) Projected state funding shortage. An overview of this handout was given as well. An inquiry was made regarding the emergency set aside funds and Ms. Ash gave examples of emergency services for individuals with critical needs. Mr. Kreauter also shared with the subcommittee the FY12 Projected Budget. A discussion was held.

Ms. White-Spunner indicated the DD Workgroup met a few weeks ago, and they decided to transfer this particular goal to the Management Steering Committee. Ms. White-Spunner emphasized that the Legislative Action and Dedicated Funding Streams will still be a goal for DD Coordinating Subcommittee. They just need to strike this goal so that the Management Steering Committee can take charge of it. Ms. Klingel made a motion to move the Consolidated Legislative Action and Dedicated Funding Streams goal to the Management Steering Committee. The motion passed with 10 yes and 6 oppositions.

Ms. White-Spunner reported Partlow census is 91. Ms. Ash related the community providers placements are not moving as quickly as thought, but it is moving pretty good. Ms. White-Spunner related she appreciate everything providers are doing and asked if there were any ideas on how to speed up the placement process. Mr. Vick and Ms. Ferguson shared examples of obstacles that hinder a speedy process. Not knowing where individuals are going and dealing with provider staff not being available. Ms. White-Spunner asked Dr. Ford and her staff to step in and assist providers with the supports they need.

She again indicated if there is ever anything ADMH can do to assist providers with anything to please let the division know. Mr. Vick pointed out it will be helpful to know where individuals are going, and Ms. Ash agreed but reiterated that the choice process takes a little bit longer. Families and individuals want to make visits to programs before they make a decision, and this process is almost completed.

Ms. White-Spunner stated in the near future she will be sending a letter to families indicating if they have not made their choice by October 1, 2011, the Department will begin the process of making preparation for them.

It was noted that ADMH is still waiting to hear from Medicaid on the waiver amendment regarding self-directed care.

Crisis stabilization units are still up and running in three regions; Tuscaloosa (Region II), Birmingham (Region V), and Opelika (Region IV). There is a need for crisis stabilization units in Region I and Region III. Ms. White-Spunner asked if any providers were interested to please submit their proposals.

Ms. Klingel thanked Ms. White-Spunner for the progress in supported employment.

Waiting List

Ms. Ash informed the subcommittee that the county-by-county waiting list will be emailed to them in the near future.

Mr. Williams gave the following status of the waiting list:

Status - 2,753

23 individuals were served this quarter

6 Residential

10 Day habilitation

15 Support services

Year to date - 235

95 Residential

114 Day habilitation

110 Support services

An inquiry was made regarding how many individuals are added to the waiting list monthly on a monthly basis. Ms. Ash replied approximately 200 individuals are added quarterly (which is roughly 83 individuals monthly). Mr. Ridgeway wanted historic data on the waiting list for the past 5 years.

Dr. Hoehle inquired about what is the Department doing about the "Name Change", and Ms. White-Spunner replied the scope of services has not been expanded. The "Name Change" will not affect the waiting list because only individuals with intellectual disabilities will be on the current waiting list.

New Business

Mr. Townsend indicated that he hear a lot of talk about day programs. He inquired about DD developing a model day program for individuals in the community. Day programs should give people a reason to be in the community. He gave examples of some of the activities that individuals have been doing in some of the Arc's day programs such as growing pumpkins and creating greeting cards.

Ms. White-Spunner replied she appreciate the creativity of the day programs in terms of activities. She also respect several members' view of things regarding day programs, but CMS view shelter workshops as integrated settings and Alabama need to address this issue.

Ms. Klingel noted it would be great to screen individuals for employment before they enter day programs. Ms. White-Spunner stated she think they are going to see a shift of funds from day programs to supported employment. A discussion was held. Mr. White pointed out ADMH received a grant from the DD Council to assist with training regarding Employment First. A Consultant from Washington will be coming to Alabama to conduct this training in 2012. A date has not been set yet, but further information will be distributed in the future.

Another discussion was held regarding needs/wants of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Mr. Ridgeway stated a job, a safe place to live, and a relationship or friends are some of the things individuals want.

Ms. White-Spunner related we have a tendency to look at our population goals as an excuse not to move forward - from day programs/sheltered work shops toward - supported employment. She further related Mr. White is working closely with individuals who are in school in efforts to hopefully transition them into some type of supported employment.

The subcommittee held a discussion regarding how difficult it is to collaborate with the school system and possible ways of getting the school system to cooperate or participate in the transition process. Dr. Gillespie reminded everyone that Mr. White and Mr. Lafreniere are the individuals who deal with the school system. The subcommittee doesn't have to wait on the training from Mr. White and Mr. Lafreniere or anyone in order to get involve. Everyone is aware of

what is going on, and we just need to take the initiative to participate and advocate. Mr. Lafreniere indicated the schools are working with Web-based 101 for parents and special education teachers. Also, there is a transition conference held annually. It seems that everyone is so focused on waivers the transition process is forgotten. The challenge is how to plan for students before they graduate. How does the school system modify the curriculum of the students while they are still in school? Ms. Martin pointed out she works with the school system. She feels the school systems do not really care about students after they become 22 years old, because the school is not vested in the students once they age-out. Once the kids become 15 years old, the next step is to put them on the waiting list. All of these years, parents have been programmed into thinking the school system is going to assist them once their kids age-out when in reality they really don't help them at all. Mr. White indicated more things are being done to address transitioning kids from schools. VR is also shifting the people they serve. Ms. Ash shared some of the things that the regional offices are doing. She noted that brochures regarding how to get people into services are being distributed. She also stated the regional offices participate in transition planning in schools who are open to this. Ms. Martin pointed out it is important that supported employment opportunities be directed through families first. Mr. Townsend thinks it would be good to collaborate with the Department of Education. He asked for ideas on getting day programs to supported employment. Ms. White-Spunner replied shifting where the funds are and creating ways to enable individuals to become employed are some ideas. Ms. Akins stated let 2 or 3 individuals go to employment with job coaches.

Dr. Hoehle commented about the history of the establishment of the Arc's. He expressed how the founders established the Arcs solely for their love ones and families, and to think this will all change.

It was noted there need to be incentives in place for families to want to go to supported employment. Ms. White-Spunner pointed out she is not announcing there will be no more day programs for anyone. She is merely stating we need to broaden our horizons. She commented about the Department of Justice ruling for a particular state in regards to day programs/shelter workshops.

Mr. Townsend again voiced his concerns regarding a person returning to day program if supported employment does not work out.

Ms. Woods expressed the importance of giving individuals a choice first to work and if it does not work out then let them go back to day program.

Members held a lengthy discussion about individuals from day program to supported employment.

Mr. Feore inquired about why don't best practices for supported employment be explored, and Mr. White replied DD have always explored best practices for supported employment.

Mr. Darren Morris shared his employment experiences with the group. He stated we need to work one on one with individuals in order to find out what they really want.

Ms. White-Spinner indicated that she never said all or nothing in regards to day programs. She has and will always be an advocate for continuum of care. She was merely saying if we don't build a system, CMS will build one for us. According to Mr. White, there is a work group in place then people need to meet.

Dr. Penney expressed that she support people working. Certainly, there are quality day programs where individuals don't spend time on coloring books, but spend time on skill building activities.

Ms. White-Spinner thanked everyone for attending. She announced that the System Change meeting will be held today at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting will be held October 4, 2011 (10:00 a.m.), at the AIDT Center.