

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

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

Voting Members Present

Jeff Williams, ADMH/DD
Jo Poates, AADD Representative
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Providers Representative
Terry Pezent, the Arc of Alabama Representative
Beatrice McLean, ADMH/DD Representative
Chris Stewart, ACE/Arc Representative
Brittany Gore, People First of Alabama
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative
Myra Banks, The DD Council Representative
Dianne Durbin, ADMH Advocacy Representative

Visitors

James Tucker, ADAP
Wade Reese, The Arc of Fayette/Lamar Counties
Barbara Huguley, ADMH/DD Region 2
Eleanor Tolbert, ADMH/DD Region 3
Vivian A. Wren
Patti Martin, ADMH/DD
Connie Batiste, ADMH/DD
Karen Coffey, ADMH/DD
Byron White, ADMH/DD
Peggy Olson, ADMH
June Stewart, ADMH/DD
Andy Slate, ADMH/DD
Anthony Couch, ADMH/DD
George Neal, ADMH/DD
Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama
Joann Bennett/ADMH/DD
Jane Davis, ADMH Legislative Affairs
Lou Vick, The Arc of Walker County
Renee' King-Holley, King CRF
Rose Hill, Hill's LLC
Carolyn Little, Little CRF
Jess Butrica, AWE/Arc
Susan Klingel, The Arc of Madison County

Recorder

Shirley Hicks

Agenda

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

Approval of October 6, 2015, Meeting Minutes

On Page 3, under People First of Alabama, the 5th bulleted item was revised to reflect, "A webinar on closing institutions will be held", and the 6th bulleted item was also revised to reflect, "Ms. Gore plan to attend the Alabama Disability Conference." Mr. Stewart made a motion to adopt the minutes as revised, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Penney. The motion was approved.

Associate Commissioner (AC) Report

In addition to the distributed report, the following items were noted:

A billing update was provided. Several factors were involved in the delay of payments. The major factors were the close out for 2015 fiscal year, the implementation of the STARRS state finance system, and the initial Medicaid edits. ADMH staff have been working diligently to generate payments. The first check write will generate this week and next week. ADMH apologies for the inconveniences and will continue to work diligently to get payments current. Providers were encouraged to contact the ADMH/DDD Regional Chief Finance Officers regarding their financial situations before exploring other financial options.

Waiting List Update

Mr. Williams distributed data regarding the waiting list by county and presented the following update as well:

Number currently waiting 3,274

Status 1 = Waiting, no services provided: 2,236

Status 2 = Waiting, partially served: 951

Status 3 = Waiting, no services, not critical: 37

Status 4 = Waiting, partially served, not critical: 50

In addition, the issue of not being able to update and save in ADIDIS has been resolved. The waiting list issue has been resolved as well. All edits to the systems have been resolved with the exception of the TO15's. Medicaid is currently addressing this issue.

The November 6, 2015, check write should clear the denied 1016 claims that were submitted by providers on October 1, 2015. Please do not rebill the denial claims as Harmony is resolving this issue. An email explaining this issue was sent to all providers.

Employment First

During the October 6, 2015, DD Subcommittee's meeting, the group spent the majority time reviewing DDD strategic plan, which entailed adding other goals, and discussing expanding goals in conjunction with the ODEP technical assistance. The ODEP project/Vision Quest technical assistance terminated October 31, 2015, but Alabama and several other states were granted another year to participate in the ODEP Core State Technical Assistance and the program by receiving expert assistance through Vision Quest.

Last year, DDD started the Rate Restructuring project and Capacity Building framework. The Alabama Vision Quest Rate Restructuring Team will reconvene and also will have the same representatives (DeAnna Ferguson, Chris

Stewart, Britany Gore, and Susan Ellis).

Allan Bergman, ODEP, Vision Quest, SME, was introduced to the group and a brief history of his professional credentials were shared with the group.

A video, on Employment for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, State of Maryland, Infrastructure Grant was presented to the subcommittee by Mr. Bergman. In summary, the video illustrated an employment story of Jessica who previously attended a sheltered workshop but transitioned to working in a heavy duty factory on an assembly line, without a job coach, despite multiple disabilities which included blindness and seizures. Jessica's employment was customized and person-centered based on attribution of her strengths and not her weakness. This video and other real life employment stories are located on the Employment First Interagency website.

Mr. Bergman also presented an Employment First power point presentation on redefining expectations, the array of services and funding to assure employment first for all Alabamians with disabilities. It was emphasized that the integrated employment is not an initiative or a policy that was originated by the Department of Mental Health, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, or the Office of Disability Employment Policy. The employment policy is not just about past practice, it is about clear public policies that employment first is also priority for individuals with developmental disabilities. The common perception and methodology that individuals with developmental disabilities cannot not work are only stigma and stereotypes that are false.

The presentation related policies and mission of the DD Act, IDEA Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, State VR Program (Rehabilitation Act), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity ADA Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Oregon Lawsuit regarding employing individuals with developmental disabilities. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) both have interactions and communication regarding the employment first policies.

An overview of a proposal regarding infusion of training for staff to do customize employment and analyzing jobs for individuals and the importance of person-centeredness were mentioned. In order for person-centeredness to work, one person at a time need to be focused on. The idea that one size fit all does not work with the person-centered plan, because each individual is unique. The whole employment concept is not easy, but it is necessary to put it in place to prevent lawsuits and complaints from individuals and families.

The presentation slides will be available and posted on the Employment.bama.org website. Also, brochures entitled "Employing People with Developmental Disabilities", will be available for distribution as well.

At the conclusion of the presentation, comments and input were entertained.

There was a comment regarding 67 individuals being denied services from VR. Mr. Tucker would like to discuss this issue with Mr. Bergman.

Concerns were expressed about after a VR assessment and discovery for individuals who apply for supported employment, VR claimed the individuals are employable but they don't have the job supports that are needed for the job.

Mr. Tucker will have available handouts about employment work and social security income at the DD Subcommittee's December meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

Mr. Bergman already met with Commissioner Boswell, ADRS and Commissioner Perdue, ADMH. This afternoon, he will be meeting the Employment First Interagency Team Department Heads.

Next Meeting

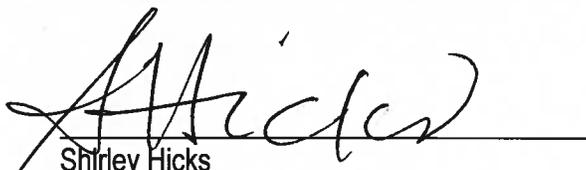
The next DD Subcommittee Meeting will be held December 1, 2015, at AIDT.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Courtney W. Tarver, Associate Commissioner
Division of Developmental Disabilities



Shirley Hicks
Recorder