

DDS North Region
Regional Advisory Council

February 17, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Collette Bement, Nancy Bilyak, Donna Clauson, Joe Duffy, Richard Rothstein, Annette Scully, Tammy Selinger, Andrew Selinger, Elisa Velardo, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Ronald Langner, Diane Olmsted, Lori Sandora, Brian Reddy

Elisa Velardo, Regional Director, began the meeting with introductions.

- Employment Video – due to technical difficulties, we were unable to share the video. We will try again for the next meeting.
- Council Chairperson – Elisa asked if anyone on the Council had considered the possibility of becoming Chair or Co-Chair for the RAC. It was explained that by statute, the Council is meant to be a committee that is not run by DDS. The Regional Director is the liaison with DDS, but is an ex officio member and cannot be a voting member of the Council. The Council should have a chairperson. It is still being considered, and will be revisited for the next meeting.
- Northeast Parent Group – Brian Reddy, DDS Case Management Supervisor, will be attending the RAC meetings to share any information from the parents' group that he is involved with in the Northeast portion of the state and also to bring any information from these meetings back to the Putnam group. He explained again how their group began and that if anyone is ever interested in attending, all families are welcome. He will share information regarding any presenters that they have at the meetings if anyone is interested in attending.
- Budget Update – information regarding the budget was discussed. Richard Rothstein shared information that he has regarding the budget proposed by the Governor. Elisa stated that probably the biggest change would be transferring the Community Residential Services line to the Department of Social Services and all of the billing. This would not change the service provision, only the administrative portion. At this point, not all of the specifics have been worked out yet. It has been tried with DMHAS and has seemed to have worked well.

Another part of the budget would move DDS from being under Human Services to being under Public Health. Also, in SB17, Autism services would be transferred to DSS.

Elisa explained that we are constantly trying to maximize revenue. We need to make sure that IP's are done, the LON is in place, and TCM notes are completed so that we can bill for services. Case managers are doing a good job continually keeping up with this.

It was asked what DDS is saying about the 5.75% reduction. Elisa stated that it would be very difficult, and we would have to study how we would make cuts, but that every effort will be made to not effect services. It will also depend on whether the allocation changes from line items as it is currently to one consolidated budget.

Elisa thanked everyone again for their advocacy. Family presence and involvement is very appreciated.

- Administrative Updates –
 - Elisa reported that information was gathered regarding PRAT statistics for the 2nd quarter and she shared that information. Some of the statistics were as follows:

10 individuals were identified as Emergencies
8 Emergencies were placed
19 Grads received services
3 individuals in Public Day Programs exercised portability and are now receiving services from Private agencies
2 individuals went from Public residential to Private residential using portability
36 people received recycled one-time dollars for day services
36 people received residential one-time dollars
Residential funding was recycled for 37 individuals

Even with the limited resources we have, there still has been movement. For people who no longer need services or need less services, those resources are being recycled.
 - Conversion homes – There are 7 conversion homes statewide, 5 of those are in the North Region. Two of the homes are underway and the goal is to make a decision regarding providers by the second week of March so the May 1st deadline can be met. Proposals were received from providers for all of the programs, however, the question will be whether they came in within budget. The proposals are in process of being reviewed. In the Governor's budget there is an additional 30 conversion homes statewide.
 - Waitlist Project – Joe Duffy has been invited to serve on this committee and Elisa asked if he would explain a little bit about the purpose of the group. Joe explained that the committee consists of DDS staff, members from each of the RAC's, parents, etc. The purpose is to work on defining what the Waitlist is, what the codes mean (P-1, P-2, P-3), and to discuss clarifications so people know what it means to be identified as a P-1, etc. on the list.

Other Discussion:

- BSP/DCF – an issue was raised with who is identified to receive funding. Elisa stated that this would be discussed at the next meeting and she would have someone attend that could better clarify that has been involved with the process.
- Outreach to other RAC's – a combined meeting was discussed which people would be interested in. We will look into planning a combined meeting with all three of the RAC's. A combined meeting has been held in the past via video conference.

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary