

Transition and Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2012

Attendees: Elisa Velardo, Peter Mason, Stan Soby, Thomas Dailey, Quincy Abbot, Pat Dillon, Varian Salters

Absent: Amy Chase and Warren Sparrow

1. The meeting minutes of April 10, 2012 were reviewed and approved with one edit. Elisa will correct and they will be posted on the DDS website.
2. Quincy provided an overview of the work to date of the full rate setting committees as well as each of the other sub committees. Highlights included:
 - The committee has developed a survey which will be completed by providers asking for information on each residential model, number of people, LON, number of staff hours, transportation, etc. This information will be due around the beginning of June, and will be used to understand what is offered and associated rates.
 - The group is analyzing rates, data based on LON (using the greater score of Composite plus Behavioral).
 - The committee is evaluating how rates will be calculated, and is reviewing CMS guidelines to determine whether the monthly rate complies with CMS standards.
 - The Data Management Subcommittee has been evaluating variables that have an impact on provider rates. It does not appear that unionized agencies correlate with higher rates. It does appear that Management fees may have an impact on whether an agency is above the 8%.
 - Data Management is also reviewing DDS data to ensure accuracy.
 - The Community Companion Home (CCH) subcommittee has not yet given a report.
 - The Individualized Home Support (IHS) subcommittee will be issuing a survey on shared apartments and clustered services in order to better determine the range of clustered support services, and how to develop rates.
3. The Residential Issues subcommittee is focusing on the use of technology to maximize system efficiencies. Discussion included methods of passive monitoring, which are not overly intrusive, and can increase autonomy and decrease reliance on staff. Stan provided the following website services:
 - SENGISTIX.com
 - Homelinkst.com
 - Healthsense.com

Other technology options include iPads, Skype, audio monitoring, etc. Elisa mentioned that AAIDD CT chapter is hosting a conference on this topic Entitled “Doing More with Less” on September 28, 2012. Parents have expressed concern about how all these changes will be communicated.

4. One of the topics which has been raised at Provider meetings has been the cost associated with the regulatory requirements of each model. Thomas pointed out that many times it has not been the actual regulation but the interpretation of how it should be implemented that has been cumbersome.
5. The group agreed to gather information from the various trade organizations on systems that could be managed more efficiently and effectively. A preliminary list generated by the group included:
 - PRC
 - Fall Assessment
 - Medication Certification
 - RN “Best Practice” standards
 - Quarterly Clinical and Nursing Summaries
 - Licensing
 - Lack of Electronic Health Records
 - Electronic Incident Reports

At times we fail to let go of an old process when a new one is implemented, resulting in redundancy.

6. The group reviewed information gathered from the other states. Peter reviewed data from the Oregon ReBAR project and New Mexico (see attached). Varian is awaiting a response from colleagues in New Hampshire and Vermont.
7. Elisa reported that Massachusetts is in the process of determining which tool will be used to determine Level of Need, and plans to tie services to acuity, but has not yet implemented the system.
8. Elisa reported that the services provided to individuals served in Maine is determined by what is indicated in the Individual Plan, and not necessarily tied to a need assessment.
9. Stan will follow up on systems in Ohio and Illinois.
10. Quincy reported that while New Mexico was able to implement a new system within one year, and realize savings in the process, providers have indicated that the process has had an adverse impact on the system. A colleague from New Mexico indicated that while most providers will survive, providers are considering a lawsuit against the state.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2012 from 1-3:30 p.m.