

**Coordinating Subcommittee for
Developmental Disabilities Services
Meeting Summary
January 3, 2012**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met January 3, 2012, at the AIDT Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order by Associate Commissioner Ann White-Spunner.

Members Present

Ann White-Spunner, DMH/DD Representative
Willodean Ash, DMH/DD Representative
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Provider Representative
Murray Townsend, The Arc of Alabama Representative
Elouise Woods, People First Representative
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer Representative
Danny Grant, Region 1, Consumer Representative
John VanCamp, Region 2, Provider Representative
Katherine Parker (Lou Vick), Region 2 Family Representative
Susan Klingel, Region 1, Provider Representative
Patti Martin, Region 4, Provider Representative
Bill Hoehle, Region 5, Provider Representative

Visitors

Daphne Rosalis, Susan Ford, Joey Kreauter, Terry Bartlett, George Neal, Susan Ford, Anthony Couch, Andy Slate, Rebekah (Becky) Matthews, Lori Leathers, Ellen Gillespie, Gary Edwards, Kimberly Bell, Ken Oliver, and Lee Conner.

Recorder

Shirley Hicks

Approval of December 6, 2011 Minutes

December 6, 2011, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval. The following modifications were noted: On page 5, under "**Local Match**", the second paragraph should read: *"It was emphasized that in the past local match was used to match waiver services. Dr. Hoehle clarified local match was a good mechanism to convert a small amount of dollars to a large amount of*

dollars.” Also, “*DD Standards*” should read “*ID Standards*”. Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as modified. The motion was seconded by Mr. Townsend, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Dr. Penney. The motion was seconded by Ms. Poates, and the motion passed.

Budget

Mr. Kreauter distributed budget information to the subcommittee. He indicated there was no change in the budget. He stated that Robert Church, CFO for the Department, gave him a brief summary of their finance meeting. Mr. Church related to him that the 10% proration is more imminent now for 2012 than it was any other time.

There is not a significant change in the budget status report. The status report update will be in a payback mode on the cost report. It was such an aggressive plan, and DD will be finalizing the 2011 cost report in the near future. We have 90 days to get the cost report completed. There is a projection that \$1.8 million will be overbilled. Mr. Kreauter indicated that Associate Commissioner White-Spunner requested that he meet with Medicaid regarding issues regarding the terminating cost report. The projected amount in the FY2012 general fund cut is 10% or approximately \$3.9 million. Associate Commissioner indicated that she has emphasized over and over again that she is determined not to cut providers rates. Mr. Kreauter related that the Department has finished in the black. There is currently \$7 million in carry forward from FY 2011. Associate Commissioner indicated that Commissioner Baugh is holding the \$7 million in case DMH gets prorated. If there is no proration, the Commissioner's plan is to add the \$7 million back to the budget.

Dr. Penney gave her appreciation to Associate Commissioner White-Spunner for trying to keep providers doors open by not decreasing their rates.

Legislative Update

Mr. Holmes indicated he has a planning committee in preparation for the upcoming meeting scheduled for March 8. This meeting will start with a breakfast at the State House followed by a press conference from 10:30 to 11:00. Also, they plan to have families tell their personal stories regarding services. They are also planning on having another meeting sometime this month.

Division of Developmental Disabilities Updates

Self-Directed Services

Ms. Rosalis distributed information on the approved waiver amendment regarding self-directed services. Associate Commissioner indicated Ms. Rosalis and Ms. Ash have been working diligently on implementing training on the approved self-directed services. The first step will be to get input internally and develop a process on how to proceed. Performance measures are included under self-directed services. There will be internal training and then case management training. Ms. Jones inquired about training for families, and Ms. Rosalis replied training for families will be conducted by the community specialists.

There was a discussion regarding a RFP being prepared for community specialists to provide the administrative work, paperwork, and timecards for families. Ms. Rosalis noted that Financial Management Services Agency (FMSA) is the agency who will run the background checks on individuals. There was also a discussion about who will be responsible for the liability insurance.

Mrs. Klingel inquired about guidelines regarding supported employment. Ms. Rosalis indicated Mr. White is working on these guidelines. Job development and job coaching need to be flushed out – thereby making sure there is a process in place. They are working with regional offices regarding the codes and specialized cases. Ms. Poates inquired about the guidelines on how long individuals can stay on the waiver in order to cross over to a redetermination date. A discussion was held.

Sheltered Workshop

Associate Commissioner informed the subcommittee that as of October 1, 2012, the billing code for all sheltered workshops will be shifted to pre-vocation rate by the Department. Mr. Townsend shared his concerns about how this will affect individuals.

Mrs. Martin asked Associate Commissioner to put the sheltered workshop directive in writing. Ms. Klingel indicated that she would like to see DD explore innovative services grants for supported employment. Dr. Edwards expressed his concerns about the subcommittee focusing on the wrong population. The focus should be on kids transitioning from school. Associate Commissioner replied the Division has already planned a meeting in the next couple of weeks regarding transition programs. Actually, the Division is looking at everything.

Ms. Poates inquired about the advantage of a person using the self-directed services, and Ms. Ash replied the only advantage is having the option and the

control to hire and fire, but not everyone will have the option for self-directed services.

ID Standards Update

Associate Commissioner gave more clarification about the ID Standards. Currently, the standards are still in legal. They will be going through the public review process as well. Training will be developed and conducted in February. She was informed by Mr. Williams that there were no anticipated issues regarding the standards. She understands the providers input, suggestions, and revisions were already incorporated. Dr. Penney noted there were some questions that were sent to legal regarding the standards. Dr. Edwards inquired about why is "ID" still being referenced in the standards instead of "DD", and the Associate Commissioner replied she understands the process takes time to change "ID" to "DD" in the standards.

The group held a discussion about basic assurance.

Goals for 2012

Associate Commissioner indicated her original plan for today's meeting was to discuss the Division's goals for 2012. As a subcommittee, we do the planning for the Division and report recommendations to the Management Steering Committee. Dr. Penney commented she understands the Management Steering process is to come together on legislation and finance. Our job is to stick to the statues and use our subcommittee as a planning committee.

Associate Commissioner stated Mr. Lafreniere developed a transition work group to address transition issues. The first meeting will be held January 17th.

Mr. White already established a group to address supported employment issues. She further indicated that she understands and is aware of the economic burdens on providers, and she is open to knowing what members goals are as well. They can either call or email their ideas and recommendations.

Mr. Townsend indicated he would like to see some guidelines developed for day programs. He would like to see a prototype for day programs. Associate Commissioner encouraged members to research the Department of Justice website regarding the State of Mississippi. This article will let us know how far Alabama has come.

Dr. Gillespie suggested that the DD subcommittee membership be reviewed again. There are not many participants from families with DD on this subcommittee. Associate Commissioner noted that Commissioner Baugh and David Jackson are rewriting the Bylaws for the Management Steering

Committee, and Mr. Holmes inquired about whether they will have input on the Bylaws.

Ms. Martin recommended consultants be brought in who are familiar with self-directed services.

Dr. Penney suggested hearing from a group, such as VOA, who is currently operating under the current ID standards and who have become accredited under CQL. Dr. Ferguson replied she would be more than happy to share this information with the group. She further stated she can put together a synopsis.

Mrs. Klingel asked Dr. Gillespie about the Legislation agenda regarding the Coalition committee. Dr. Gillespie replied the Disability Coalition meeting will be held January 11, 2012 in the State House in the Star War Room. More detailed information will be given at this meeting. Mrs. Klingel wanted to know if they will bring this Legislation, and Dr. Gillespie replied no, but there will be information on Autism, Early Intervention, and DMH Budget.

There was more discussion about VOA and the process they went through to become accredited. Mr. Bartlett share more information regarding the cost and expenses associated with becoming a member of CQL. He and Dr. Ferguson gave more information on VOA journey in becoming accredited through CQL. They indicated that the size of an agency really determines the costs. Associate Commissioner White-Spunner indicated she will put Dr. Ferguson on the agenda next month to go into more details.

Ms. Byrd indicated the legislative tracking email will be sent out today. There are no preliminary hearings at this time.

Partlow Update

Associate Commissioner announced that Partlow is closed. Everyone should take pride. The funds from Partlow follow the person into the community.

Dr. Ziegler indicated there has never been a more important time to get local publicity. Now is the time to let Alabama know what the Department does through the media and local paper. Between now and the legislative session, it will be great if providers can get something out regarding their programs and services. Now is a great opportunity for everyone to think about public relations.

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held February 7, 2012 (10:00 a.m.) at the Alabama Public Library.