

**Coordinating Subcommittee for
Developmental Disabilities Services
Meeting Summary
November 1, 2011**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met November 1, 2011 at the AIDT Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order by Ann White-Spunner

Members Present

Ann White-Spunner, DMH/DD Representative
Willodean Ash, DMH/DD Representative
Jeff Williams, DMH/DD Representative
Steven Lafreniere, DMH/DD Representative
Myra Jones, DD Council Representative
Jim Dill, Alabama Council Representative
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative
Jo Poates, MR/DD 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
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer 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
Blesses Malone, Region 3, Consumer Representative
Elouise Woods, People First Representative
Susan Klingel, Region 1, Provider Representative

Visitors

Daphne Rosalis, Susan Ford, Joey Kreauter, Lee Conner, Bill Summer, George Neal, Byron White, Shannon Byrd, Susan Ford, Anthony Couch, Andy Slate, Mary Stringham, Regina Savage, Ellen Gillespie, Gary Edwards, Lonnie Williams, Kimberly Bell, Glendie Davis, and Carolyn Little.

Recorder

Shirley Hicks

Approval of October 4, 2011 Minutes (A. White-Spunner)

October 4, 2011, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval. There was a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

Agenda (A. White-Spunner)

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

Legislative Update

Northport Zoning

Mr. Ridgeway shared information regarding Northport zoning ordinance. This zoning ordinance denies individuals with developmental disabilities the right to live where they want to live and the right to live with whom they would like to live. He will be emailing everyone the Tuscaloosa News Article regarding the zoning ordinance. He also will be emailing everyone regarding having a support gathering on how to address this issue. Mr. Williams (ADAP) commented. He indicated that the motivation behind the zoning ordinance is Northport's effort to prevent group homes from being developed in certain areas. This is discriminatory. He further indicated that ADAP has filed several complaints with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Density rules on group homes are generally against the federal Fair Housing Act. If the Fair Housing Act laws are not enforced, the complaints will go to the Department of Justice.

Department Legislative Update

- The Baldwin County "Meet and Greet" gathering is scheduled tonight. The dates and locations of the upcoming "Meet and Greet" gatherings were emailed to the subcommittee. The past "Meet and Greet" gatherings went well, and a couple of ideas on how to generate revenue were mentioned at the last Meet and Greet in Tuscaloosa. Also, Ms. Byrd shared how certain stories told by families at the Tuscaloosa Meet and Greet made an impact on legislators.
- A discussion was held by the group regarding the impact of family stories.
- Mr. Holmes indicated that the first joint legislative planning meeting was held last Wednesday. The second meeting will be held next Tuesday after MI/SA meeting at 1:30 p.m. They have not come to a consensus about if it's going to be an one time meeting. They did come to a consensus about

sending a letter to the Governor. They are working with "WINGS". Also, a report was sent out yesterday.

Budget

- Mr. Kreauter distributed budget documents for FY2011-2012 – DD Services Budget (Summary) Central Office; Community Services; and Partlow. He gave an overview. He indicated that DD ended in the black, and Partlow broke even. For FY2012, the total budget for DD was \$436 million; with \$104 million tied to Community Services; \$4 million tied to Partlow; and \$1.5 million tied to Central Office. A discussion was held and members voiced their concerns. The CFO is working with Medicaid regarding the \$3 million. The expansion of services for FY2013 was to cost out the waiting list. A report was obtained for day, residential, and support services. Two hundred individuals per quarter were added. Court commitment individuals do not qualify for the Medicaid Waiver. Further discussions were held by members.
- Dr. Dill inquired about the status of reinstating the rate for providers, and Ms. White-Spunner replied the Department is still working on getting things in order. Ms. Poates wanted to know if the rates can be reinstated manually, and Ms. Rosalis explained why it would not be feasible to reinstate the rates manually. She indicated it is important for the system to be accurate. She further noted if the rates are done manually, the system will be by-passed. Ms. White-Spunner promised to come up with the easiest way to restore the rates without affecting the system. Dr. Dill commented about the advantages of reinstating the rates soon as possible. He further commented about the impact on the budget if the rates are not reinstated soon.
- Ms. Poates was assured that if her suggestion was sent in regarding how to manually restore the rates then it will be explored.
- Dr. Gillespie noted it is terrible how members are debating about how the rates should be restored. First of all, they should be grateful that the rates are going to be restored. Everyone should take a deep breath and extend thanks instead of worrying about how the rates are going to be restored. Mrs. Klingel suggested a thank you letter be sent to the Governor.

Partlow

- Ms. White-Spunner gave an update on Partlow. A discussion about how much money is being saved by closing Partlow was held by the group.

Ms. White-Spunner indicated the savings from closing Partlow are minimum because the money follows the person. Mr. Townsend commented they need to tell legislators if they do not fund community programs, the state will possibly end up opening an institution. Mr. Grant inquired about having future meetings with legislators, and Ms. White-Spunner replied currently Commissioner Baugh has already scheduled statewide "Meet and Greet" gatherings with legislators. The past meetings have been successful. Mr. Townsend pointed out the key element is to determine the total number of individuals we serve and employ because this information will be helpful when these meetings take place with legislators.

- Ms. White-Spunner announced Partlow lawsuit was successfully dismissed.
- The census at Partlow is currently 54. Ms. Ash related they continue to move forward with placing individuals with major conditions. Thanks go to all providers for their assistance.

Other Business

- Ms. White-Spunner indicated that the DD staff met with Medicaid about the Waiver; switching slots; and eligibility issues, and they were very receptive. Yesterday, Medicaid called with a few questions and they will inform us of their decisions. Marilyn Chappell/Medicaid asked us to regain a focus from wants to needs. Mrs. Chappelle pointed out that the entitlement of the waiver is based on a need to prevent institutionalization.
- Mr. Townsend suggested that a template for a day program be designed. A discussion about day programs and supported employment was held by members. Dr. Gillespie emphasized that members need to go to supported employment meetings and training that are conducted by Mr. White. She further stated this will give them a better understanding about what is going on with supported employment. Mr. Townsend replied he will try to attend some of the training.
- Mr. White shared information on the upcoming Employment First Initiative training. This training will be held in Birmingham next week. Experts from Washington will be doing training on this next year as well. There are plans to select pilots. The pilots will include providers already doing supported employment. More training is being put together about waiver and supported employment.

- A discussion about individuals being able to work with the unlimited resources was held by members.
- Ms. White-Spunner indicated a meeting was held with DD Staff and Ms. Klingel about ending Nursing Delegation Practice (NDP). They are looking at ways to get the video, CD, and online training. Just because DD is looking at ways to end NDP, it does not mean NDP is all bad.
- Mr. Brightwell commented that he disagrees with individuals who live in the community having to live by the standards of individuals who are in hospitals. It is unfair. Ms. Klingel agrees.
- Ms. Klingel commented about Medicaid slots reduction. A discussion about the slots and the affect of reduction in terms of saving money was held.

Announcements

- Nedra Craig, Partlow Director, has resigned.
- Barbara Womack, DD Certification Director, has resigned.
- Neddie Dunnivan, DD Fiscal Office, has retired.
- Alice Widgeon, DD Office of Children's Services, Early Intervention, has retired.

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held December 6, 2011 (10:00), at the AIDT Center.