

**Coordinating Subcommittee for  
Developmental Disabilities Services  
Meeting Summary  
December 6, 2011**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met December 6, 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  
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  
Elouise Woods, People First 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  
Susan Klingel (Sara Haynes), Region 1, Provider Representative  
Patti Martin, Region 4, Provider Representative  
Bill Hoehle, Region 5, Provider Representative  
Blesses Malone, Region 3, Consumer Representative

**Visitors**

Daphne Rosalis, Susan Ford, Joey Kreauter, Lee Conner, Rebekah (Becky) Mathews; George Neal, Susan Ford, Anthony Couch, Andy Slate, Mary Stringham, Regina Savage, Ellen Gillespie, Gary Edwards, Kimberly Bell, Charles Priest, Glendie Davis, and Carolyn Little.

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

### **Approval of November 1, 2011 Minutes (A. White-Spunner)**

November 1, 2011, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval. Dr. Penney made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Poates, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **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.

### **Budget**

Mr. Kreauter distributed budget documents regarding the budget status report Closeout for October 2011 (which also included community services and Partlow).

Dr. Dill inquired about the \$4 million dollars deficit, and Mr. Kreauter explained it was tied to Partlow - the revenue equals the expense. The subcommittee held a discussion regarding the budget.

Mr. Holmes indicated that the Commissioner stated at the last Management Steering Committee meeting that she was still looking for resources to offset the \$6.4 million dollars deficit. Another discussion was held by the subcommittee.

Ms. White-Spunner stated Mr. Kreauter and his staff emailed providers requesting that IRBI data be sent in by November 30, 2011. To date, only several providers replied with the requested information. Ms. White-Spunner further stated once all of the information is received the next step will be to determine which providers are not getting the correct IRBI rates. Providers who are not getting the correct IRBI rates, their rates will be adjusted accordingly. Several subcommittee members indicated they were not aware of the email from the fiscal staff to providers requesting IRBI data. Mr. Couch and Mr. Slate indicated that this email was sent out weeks ago to all providers who provide residential services. Subcommittee members requested that the IRBI email be sent out again.

Members held a discussion about the last time providers received a rate increase.

Ms. White-Spunner emphasized the Department does not have any funds. She further emphasized she cannot cut rates anymore. The only other option is for her to decrease waiver slots.

Dr. Dill indicated the subcommittee needs to spend time planning how to function

on a very small budget.

Ms. White-Spunner agreed and indicated the only conscious thing she can do is not provide services to new individuals. It is not logical to serve new individuals and cut the services to the individuals who are currently being served.

Mr. Ridgeway stated that stakeholders need to advocate for funds to the legislators. The same individuals are going to the legislators on a regularly basis. New individuals need to go to the legislators and advocate for funds as well. Dr. Dill interjected that going to the legislators is not going to change anything. Alabama need resources for new revenue.

Again, the subcommittee held a discussion regarding the financial status of the Department .

Ms. Rosalis stated the Division is almost 100% leverage as far as the federal funds.

Dr. Gillespie indicated the subcommittee doesn't have one principle regarding how to move forward. The subcommittee meets month after month to complain and debate about the budget. We need to have a shared value about how to move forward with the budget we have and how to be creative about planning for new revenue.

Dr. Hoehle stated he thought we held a meeting regarding ways to improve the system four months ago, and Ms. White-Spunner replied we did but we cannot eliminate the community services offices because CMS requires monitoring of programs in the community. Also, travel has been decreased already.

Mr. VanCamp commented he thought closing Partlow would free up funds, but he was disappointed to learn this was not the case.

Dr. Dill indicated even if the \$6.4 million deficit can be covered, there still need to be a budget plan in place.

Mr. Vick commented about the legislative change regarding the Nursing Practice Delegation.

Mr. Murray suggested the subcommittee prepare a budget plan for the legislators in January regarding the consequences if funds are not available to serve individuals.

There was an inquiry about the total cost of waiver slots. In reply, it was indicated that the 104 waiver slots for DD totaled to the amount of 2.4 million dollars. It was also noted that attrition was used.

Dr. Penney commented historically, we have taken the position – once you have received the big waiver (whether inside or outside), she wondered whether CMS has approved another philosophy that more people can be served but will not receive all of the requested services. Ms. White-Spinner replied she might have to consider looking into this philosophy or concept.

Mrs. Martin commented even if there is no money revenue producing plan, we still should not stop trying to come up with a budget plan. First, we need philosophical changes. We need to revisit other waivers. We need to have a positive approach and an open mind. We as a group (providers; DMH; and consumers) need to think about how we are going to do business with the funds we currently have. The legislators have bigger problems to address than to worry about DMH. We need to think globally, and we need to do something proactive and stop sitting around the table worrying and talking about we don't have any money. We need to 1) continue to advocate for more revenue, and 2) think about how we can do a more efficient job at serving people with DD with the funds what we currently have now.

Dr. Dill agreed with Mrs. Martin's point of view. He stated that Mrs. Martin's comments were well said. We need to stop thinking the way we do things is the only way to do things. We need to start thinking creatively.

### **10% Proration**

Ms. White-Spinner indicated that the 10% proration was a figure that was given to create scenarios which will address the 10% proration, and her response was she could not cut anything else except reduce slots.

The subcommittee held a discussion.

### **Partlow**

Ms. White-Spinner announced Mr. Jeff Williams is the Acting Facility Director at Partlow. Next week, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Partlow will become 100% state operated regardless of whether individuals are on the Medicaid Waiver.

Currently, the Partlow census is 16. The census will be 12 by this Friday. Special thanks go to Ms. Willodean Ash and her staff for assisting with placing individuals in the community.

### **DD Standards**

Ms. White-Spinner indicated that Mr. Williams informed her that the new DD standards were sent out for public review. She would like for the standards to go

live by October 2012. Several trainings will be developed and conducted in the future.

Subcommittee members requested copies of the new standards. The standards will be emailed the subcommittee immediately.

### **Local Match**

Ms. Rosalis indicated that local match was no longer written in the waiver. There were comments regarding an organization incorrectly using local match funds which caused the Department to be charged a \$21 million deficit. Also, it was noted that Medicaid recommended Department not to use local match funds. Members held a discussion.

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.

Dr. Dill inquired about getting Mr. Courtney Tarver, Legal Counsel, to obtain regulations on local match. Ms. White-Spunner replied she has already asked Ms. Rosalis to contact NASDDDS about this issue. In the mean time, DD will be looking at local match and trying to figure out how to use it. Ms. Rosalis commented not every county or region can use local match like Birmingham. If people in Birmingham give local match, it will be in direct conflict with the waiver. There is a way to write a waiver to use local match funds.

Mr. Vick commented he recollect the Department stop using local match because of rate setting not because of a provider in North Alabama.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held January 3, 2012 (10:00), at the AIDT Center.