

MFP Stakeholders Committee Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2011

Time: 1pm-4pm CST

Location: Pioneer Room: Judicial Wing-State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Information Provided: Meeting PowerPoint handout, Draft MFP Brochure, Final housing program brochures and fact sheets, and a summary of a MFP report on successful MFP Projects.

- A. Committee Members were welcomed to the meeting and committee members made their own introductions. The MFP Housing staff joined the committee as members. The AARP Advocate Joined the Committee.
- B. Meeting Dates for 2012 were discussed with the first meeting to be scheduled for March 2012 with meetings about every three months as the meeting room schedule allows.
- C. The committee was made aware that in 2011 the grant assisted 19 consumers with a Developmental Disability return to the community. The yearly goal was to assist 8 consumers.
- D. The committee was made aware that 9 consumers from a nursing facility were assisted with a return to the community. The yearly goal was 30.

Grant Year	Older Adult	PD	Individuals with ID/DD	Other	TOTAL
2007	0	0	0	0	0
2008	1	1	3	0	5
2009	4	7	4	0	15
2010	4	6	16	0	26
2011	3	6	19	0	28
Totals	12	20	42	0	75

- E. Transition Goals for the year 2012 were posted for the committee to review including the following table

Grant Year	Older Adult	PD	Individuals with ID/DD	Other	TOTAL
2012	15	15	8	1	39

- F. The Committee was made aware that the MFP Budget for 2012 needs to be submitted by 1/31/2012 and needs to include any new services or operational protocol amendments that the committee has approved over the last three meetings. These include amending benchmarks 3-5. No new

money will be requested until ND meets the 90% total of 2011 transition targets.

- G. Information about the annual MFP conference in Baltimore held October 17-19, 2011 was reviewed with the committee. This included CMS emphasizing the need for states to expand their efforts to communicate MFP services to persons eligible for services, the changes to the 811 Project Rental Assistance offered, the need to continue to address workforce development, additional funding or grant opportunities available through the Affordable Care Act including the Balancing Incentive Plan, need to address employment for persons transitioning, and the need to continue to address risk mitigation and consumer choice.

The committee discussed the issue of consumer choice and the waiver staff's obligation to assure health and safety. The challenge of risk mitigation and choice was noted to be an issue the committee addresses almost every meeting so it was agreed that a subcommittee should meet to review this in more depth. Committee members were provided with the opportunity to sign up for the working committee with a report to be presented to the whole committee at a future meeting. The MFP Grant Administrator will facilitate the meeting time and location.

The committee also discussed the need for more Ombudsmen support in nursing facilities but that it would also be important to address this issue with consumers receiving community based services as well. It was noted that adult protective services are important but referrals are not always made to assure consumer choice. Concerns about compromising choice as the result of assuring safety were of most important to the committee. The need to address informed consent was an issue that the working group will need to address. Evaluation of policy and the practices of other states will also need to be reviewed.

- H. Tom Alexander, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) provided a presentation about the ND Medicaid Infrastructure Grant as it relates to assisting the ND MFP Grant address the need for employment to be part of the transition planning process. This included a history of the grant, work accomplished to date and opportunities to partner with the MFP Grant in the future. It was noted that CMS has directed states to seek ways to sustain the efforts of the MIG as part of future employment activities for persons transitioning

The communication between the MFP Grant staff and the MIG staff was reviewed including the possibility of adding a new benchmark or goal to the MFP operational Protocol related to employment of persons transitioning. This will be discussed at future meetings after additional information has been gathered.

- I. Josh Askvig, ASD of Advocacy for the AARP of North Dakota provided the committee with an introduction to the AARP National Long Term Supports and Services Scorecard. This included a review of the five issues being measured in each state and how ND ranks on the scorecard. The five areas include: Affordability and Access, Choice of Setting and Provider, Quality of

Life and Quality of Care, Support for Family Caregivers, and Effective Transitions and Organization of Care. Committee members were encouraged to review the AARP website with the scorecard at www.longtermscorecard.org. The committee will review this in more detail during a future meeting

- J.** To address the emphasis on the development of a new process to make all nursing facility consumers receiving Medicaid /or their legal decision makers aware of the MFP Grant Services a workgroup meeting has been scheduled for 11/30/11 with Nursing Facility Social Workers and Administrators, County Case Managers, and Center for Independent Living Transition Coordinators, and DHS Staff. The MFP draft brochure was reviewed with the committee and input was invited to improve the document.

- K.** The MDS Section Q Changes scheduled for April of 2012 were reviewed with the committee. These changes include the removal of the feasibility for discharge question and the expectation that all consumers or their family/legal decision maker get asked the question “Do you want to talk to someone about the possibility of leaving this facility and returning to live and receive services in the community?” It was noted that this will have an impact on the Local Contact Agency staff and the MFP/ADRC Grant LCA staff as more individuals are likely to request contact. This increased contact is estimated as the result of a CMS managed pilot of the new questions.

- L.** The committee was made aware that the MFP Grant Administrator is exploring the use of a Personal Experience Survey to monitor MFP Quality. This would be Cross Disability Survey to be used in addition to the MFP Quality of Life Survey and add ND specific questions. The committee was also made aware that ND will have an opportunity to participate in national testing of a new Quality of Life Survey at some time in 2012 or 2013

- M.** The summary of the report titled “What Determines Progress in State MFP Transition Programs?” by Mathematic Policy Research in October 2011 was provided to the committee for review and discussion. The need for good transition coordination, flexible one-time moving cost accounts, and specialized services/transition coordination were noted to be key factors for success. In addition the use of housing specialists to assist in locating and developing housing was another factor that contributed to the success of states efforts.

- N.** Vicki Troftgruben, the MFP State Housing Facilitator, and the four Regional Consumer Housing Resource Specialist provided an overview of the work that they have done since the project started in June of 2011. This work included contacting human service agency professionals, housing authorities, rental associations, city planners, and other persons related to housing. The plan to create a housing data base was reviewed for the committee and the final housing brochure and fact sheet were shared with the committee.

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Discussion about the HUD 811 money that was released was held to include that ND received one grant and that was in Grand Forks, ND-Valley Elder Care for 7.47 Million dollars.

The new 811 Project Rental Assistance program was reviewed related to the need for a formal memorandum of Understanding needed with state Medicaid offices to apply. A Notice of Federal Funding Availability will be posted within the next 60 days. The ND Housing Finance Office is interested in partnering on the project and more work will be completed with their office on this issue.

- O.** The committee was provided with an update on the distribution of the Realistic Job Preview (RJP) DVDs. This include that ten copies were distributed to all County SS offices. One hundred copies were provided to QSP Training Site in Devils Lake. The DD Provider organizations were provided copies by Barb Murry at their NDACP meeting. The RJP is also posted on the ND DHS Website.
- P.** Keith Vavrosky provided an update on the Census at the ND Developmental Center at this time. He noted that the current census is 94. He also noted that the DC is serving 6 community consumers in their day supports program. Planned moves include both MFP transitions and community ICF moves over the next several months. Four moves will involve MFP Services. Keith also noted that the Developmental Center Transition Committee Project workgroup continues to work on new service delivery models.
- Q.** Tammy Theurer from the St Alexius Home Health and Hospice program provided and update to the committee on progress of the Nurse Quality Assurance Services program.

She noted that things are generally going well with post transition visits now underway and good cooperation noted from nursing facilities and transition staff.

- R. LCA Update Brittney Schlosser and Leslie Limver the Grant Local Contact Agency staff provided and update on their efforts to educate community agencies about the HCBS available. This effort is designed to delay institutionalization and to provide support services earlier in the home before significant needs develop. Both staff notes that they have visited hospital discharge planners, public health, home health, outreach workers, county social services offices, eligibility worker, and provided the new marketing materials to these professionals.. This work will continue across the state.
- S. Rental Gap Assistance update The Rental Gap Assistance Program was again briefly reviewed again with the committee including that \$2,100 per month has been budgeted to provide rental assistance with 3 persons currently receiving assistance.
- T. Center for Independent Living Updates on MFP Transition:
Independence Inc., Minot: Dee Tischer made the committee aware that they have hired a second MFP Transition Coordinator. The new staff member will start on 12/8/11 and will be located in the Minot office. One transition has occurred from their region in 2011. The office is taking over the transition coordination role for one consumer that transferred out of the Bismarck office.

Options CIL, East Grand Fork: LaRae Gustafson reported that ten referrals have been received in 2011 with 7 qualifying for MFP. Three transitions have occurred, three are in the planning stages, and one person's needs were too much to meet with the support services currently available. Barriers noted included high recipient liability, difficulty location QSPs, and requests for out of state transition assistance.

Freedom CIL, Fargo: Jim Holben noted that three transitions have occurred in 2011. Outreach to all of the nursing facilities has generally gone well and has included visits with resident council and family council meetings. Some facilities had some concern about these visits but all of gone well. The Fargo office notes that no referrals have resulted to date from the increased outreach.

Dakota CIL, Bismarck: Jennifer Hiatt reported that three transitions have facilitated through the Bismarck office with seven referrals in the planning stage at this point. Outreach is continuing with all of the nursing facilities.