

MFP Stakeholders Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

Time: 1pm-4pm CST

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

Information Provided: Meeting PowerPoint handout, HCBS marketing tools, and draft housing program brochures and fact sheets.

- A.** Committee Members were welcomed to the meeting and committee members and guests made their own introductions. The MFP Housing staff joined the committee as members and will attend regularly in the future. The Home and Community Based Services Adult Services Committee members joined the meeting as guests. Staff from Agency MABU joined the meeting to address the marketing efforts completed to date.
- B.** Mike Mabin and Cindy Cooper, Agency MABU joined the meeting to discuss the marketing materials that have been created to promote the HCBS services. Materials were provided to the committee and discussion noted that the materials were well done. Materials included a new booklet on HCBS services, a new brochure on HCBS for professionals and one for consumers, a Qualified Services provider recruitment poster, and a folder to use to handout the information in the community.

It was noted that the Local Contact Agency staff are using the information now to educate possible referral sources about services and to encourage them to contact the Aging and Disabilities Recourse Link to connect with services. The folder of information will be provided to nursing facility social workers by the MFP Transition Coordinators. County Social Services office will be provided with the information for use in their day to day provision of services.

The CMS Technical Assistance program's recommendation that ND consider rebranding the MFP Transition Service to make it more understandable was discussed at length by the committee. The committee noted that much education has gone into the process of making folks aware of the program under its current name and significant changes will lead to a great deal of confusion. The committee also noted that a name change may make it easier to understand for consumers and their family members. After much discussion it was decided that MFP needed to remain in the name but that adding a tag line such as MFP Transition Services would be helpful. Committee members were asked to email any ideas to the MFP Program Administrator. Agency MABU will get to work on a redesign of the MFP name and brochures to improve the look and ease of use for consumers.

- C.** Vicki Troftgruben, the MFP State Housing Facilitator, and Cheryl Merck, the Northwest Region 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 hiring the four regional resource specialists which are listed in the following text.

Vicki Troftgruben – State Housing Facilitator
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Shanna Hanson – Northeast Region Consumer Housing Resource Specialist
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Jane Wiedewitsch – Southeast Region Consumer Housing Resource Specialist
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Karen Pearson – Southwest Region Consumer Housing Resource Specialist
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Vicki and Cheryl also update the committee on the contacts that have been made with 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 draft housing brochure and fact sheet were shared with the committee.

D. The MFP transitions for 2011 to date were reviewed with the committee including that 15 persons have transitioned from an ICF for persons with an ID/DD and that 6 persons have transitioned from nursing facilities.

The committee once again discussed the great success of the ICF transitions vs. the NF transitions. Concerns about housing, QSPs, and differences in the number of hours of support available in the DD waiver vs. the HCBS waiver were discussed as barriers for NF transitions. The need to communicate the desire for changes to the current services offered under the HCBS waiver/Personal Care Services to the Department was noted. This included responding to the Stakeholder Survey not posted. The need for more education was also identified as important to increasing awareness of the grant and all community based supports. TV and Radio was suggested as one means to increase awareness.

E. Keith Vavrosky provided an update on the Census at the ND Developmental Center at this time. He noted that the current census is 94 adults and 3 youths. He also noted that the DC is serving 6 community consumers in their day supports program. Planned moves this year include both MFP transitions and community ICF moves over the next two months.

F. Tammy Theurer from the St Alexius Home Health and Hospice program that is providing the MFP Nurse Quality Assurance Services provided and update to the committee on progress of the program. She noted that 12 assessments have been completed in the nursing facility setting and two visits have been completed for persons that have transitioned. Tammy noted in some situations that transition have occurred very quickly so that recommended services had to be quickly addressed during the days of transition. Communication is still being worked out with the Transition Coordination staff but overall the services has been an important addition to address the health related needs of persons leaving the nursing facilities.

Shelly Peterson of the LTC Association communicated that the Good Samaritan Society has received an \$8 million dollar grant to provide their telehealth series at no cost to individual that participate in a study there are now conducting. The ND Dept. of Human Services is reportedly going to assist with identification of potential participants.

G. 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. In addition law enforcement offices are now being contacted. This work will continue across the state.

H. The four CIL provided an update on their efforts with transition.

Independence Inc. Staff noted that Connie Klein their new Transition Coordinator is doing contacts with all of the nursing facilities and has developed good relationships with all of the NF social work staff. One transitioned has occurred and others are in the process. They have closed the Williston brand for now until they can hire a new staff member and that person will be half time MFP and half time IL specialist.

Dakota CIL staff noted that they are working on a transition that will occur in the next few weeks. They have five persons working on transition at this time. They continue to do outreach with many NF staff reporting that they do not know enough about the MFP process.

Options staff notes that they have hired Kathy Tate as the new MFP staff person and continue to have 4 part time staff working with MFP. It was noted that their office has had to deal with individuals that cannot transition due the level of support/medical services needed by the person wishing to transition. In addition it was noted that persons have needed more than the 10 per day of personal care allowed under the waiver so they could not transition. The need for more QSPs was also identified as a primary barrier. They also have found that peer mentoring is very helpful in supporting transitioning consumers.

Freedom Inc. staff noted that they continue to have their two full time staff work on outreach to nursing facilities. The Jamestown region is very slow and no transitions are occurring at this time. They have had transitions delayed due to multiple issues but are working on several referrals in the Fargo area at this time. In addition they have had two consumers that have had significant health welfare issues that have required the right to risk addressed.

- I. 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 for up to six MFP participants per month. The number of persons served will vary dependent on the amount of assistance needed by each participant. The program will Mirror the local PHA/HUD rules for maximum rent (30% of monthly Income. The program will only be available to MFP participants. It was noted that the program has allowed persons to transition before a voucher has been available for two persons that have transitioned.
- J. The Realistic Job Preview is now finished being copied and will be sent out to the county social services offices with a letter explaining how to use the video with potential Qualified service providers. Each county will receive 10 copies and will be provided more as they need.
- K. The committee was made aware that the MFP Conference** October 17th-19th
- L. The committee was made aware the MDS section Q will be changes again in April of 2012 with training set for early 2012.
- M. The Mountrail County Case Manager provided on update on the situation in and around Stanley ND and how it relates to the provision of HCBS. The Case Manager noted that there is simply no place to live in the area and that rent is going up for everyone. One apartment's rent went up from \$250 to \$1,000 per month so the person had to move to and old home where she is paying \$500 for a room and sharing with five other people. Law enforcement has tripled and they have had a significant increase in domestic and child violence. They now have 7 full time homemakers (up from 4) and are serving about 20% private pay consumers. She notes that is hard to find workers for any business outside of the oil business. The CM reports that word of mouth appears to be the primary reasons for an increase in her caseload.

Fargo Case Management staff discussed the challenging cases that they have had through the MFP transition process involving behavior and substance abuse. Issues around health and welfare have been an issue along with nursing facilities refusing to admit folks once the need is identified.

Other case managers note the difficulty getting QSPs and other services like home health assistance in their areas of the state. Getting full information at time of referral has also been a concern when moving folks back to the community and one that will need to be addressed more thoroughly with the NF teams.

Discussion was had about Basic Care and group living in general as one area that continues to need to be addressed in relation to systems change. It was noted that for many consumers group living has been very positive and for others it has been very difficult. The need to focus on person centered planning is key as many time issues like socialization and daily structure can be of concern in the community or a group setting.

- N.** The next MFP Stakeholder Meeting Date is set for November 29th from 1pm to 4pm in Bismarck. The meeting will be in the Pioneer Room of the State Capitol