

MFP Stakeholders Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

Time: 1pm-4pm CST

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

Information Provided: Meeting PowerPoint Presentation

- Committee members were welcomed to the meeting. Each member introduced themselves and shared their interest in the MFP Grant goals
- The committee was made aware that 38 individuals have been assisted with transition as of 9/11/2012. This includes 1 child, 9 persons with a developmental disability, 17 individuals with a physical disability, and 11 older adults. In addition the committee was made aware that additional transitions are in the planning process for later this year.

The continued work of all involved as resulted in more success than any of the previous four years of the grant. The overall transition total for the years 2008-2012 is 116 and surpasses the original grant benchmark.

A great deal of discussion was held about the staff capacity of the Centers for Independent Living. One option that was reviewed was the utilization of social work interns to support the post-transition assistance needed. This approach found good support within the committee and the Centers were encouraged to pursue this approach.

The option of adding additional full-time MFP staff was also discussed by the committee. This would require that CMS provide approval to either increase the overall benchmarks or allows use of a greater administrative percentage. The plan is to review options with the CMS project officer assigned to ND.

The committee discussed possible transition benchmark changes from the current 39 to up to 49. The issue will be reviewed within the department and with CMS. Additional discussion will be held at the 11/30/12 stakeholder meeting.

The need to also address the institutional diversion activities was identified as a continued priority of the committee. The work of the LCA-Options counselors funded by MFP related to this action was reviewed in depth including their work with both the public and professionals. Their continued focus on this activity will be funded with MFP administrative funds starting 10/1/12. The work of the ARDC Options Counseling offices was reviewed by the Bismarck office member present at the meeting. The options counseling process will be available statewide starting 1/1/13 and is focused on providing assistance to anyone interested in services.

Additional public education on services was suggested for the children with older parents. The marketing efforts made to date were reviewed including the TV commercial that aired for three weeks in April. The resulting increase in calls to the ADRL demonstrated that the effort was helpful and will be included in the next round of marketing planned for 2013-2014.

The ADRL is currently airing an advertisement on their services and community alternatives that the committee members noted to be also helpful.

It was suggested that more presentations be made to service clubs and faith based organizations. Other community clubs would also be good groups to provide information to about services. Such ideas as placement of insets in church bulletins, community bulletin boards, and provision of information to pastors and parish nurses would be helpful.

The development of better internet search engines offering alternative to instructional care would be helpful as most people are not aware of the choices. This is an issue that the ND DHS is aware of and will be addressing related to the Departments information.

The Care Transitions work that is now underway through ND Health Care Review will also be an important part of community service use to prevent return to hospital care. This effort is also something that the ND DHS is participating in as are the various efforts of the ND MFP Grant.

- It was noted that additional effort needs to be made to address the availability of crisis beds to serve persons with a developmental disability so that more individuals can be supported in the community. The Developmental Center representative shared that two crisis beds will likely be added to the new project in Fargo and the Developmental Center continues to provide this service and the assistance of the CARES team to help maintain community living situations.

The funding of these crisis services has also been a challenge for the system. It is noted that the DD providers in the Bismarck area have crisis beds available that they jointly operated and staff. The Grand Forks providers also are utilizing the Mental Health crisis beds when needed.

It noted that other states have a well thought out crisis intervention process and work on identification of their processes would be helpful. This will also be address at the next DC Transition Task Force meeting to evaluate if MFP funding could be utilized in any way for the development of crisis services.

- The proposal to ask the legislature to consider approving funding for a program called "Limited Service Payments for the Elderly and disabled" was reviewed by a representative of the Adult Services Committee. The new service option would

provide only housing keeping and an emergency response system to those persons meeting both the financial and functional eligibility requirements. It would likely be funded with 95% state and 5% county funds if approved. If the legislature considers the new level of services it would allow additional persons to avoid or delay institutionalization.

- The assist director of the developmental center provided an update on the centers census. This included 89 adults, 6 children in youth transition services, and 3 persons receive ISLA services. It was noted that they anticipate two additional children to be admitted from the ND State Hospital.

The children now at the DC are dealing with both intellectual and mental health/behavioral issues. The children have not been able to be supported in the community due to these needs. The children continue to be involved with school programs either at the local schools or within their center. The children retain a DD Program Manager and efforts continue on return to the community for each child.

The Developmental Center is now also now working with the local community to develop ISLA services off campus. Housing has been developed with a plan to move four adults to their own townhouse with 2 persons in each apartment.

It was noted the CARES team has been busy supporting community settings in the Grand Forks area due to behavioral challenges facing the community provider.

The Center will be hosting a Friends day on 9/24/12 from 10am to 3pm.

- The committee asked about the status of the ND DHS budget. They were made aware that it is not final as this time so information cannot be shared. If completed by the next committee meeting this information will be shared at that time.

The NDLTCA repressive shared that they will be working with the DD Provider association to ask for a 4% cost of living increase plus a \$1 pass through for staff. It was also noted that the state will need to fund an additional \$90 million dollars as the result of the decrease federal share now being paid to ND.

Other committee members noted that at the resent human services committee meeting that a motion was passed to consider a wage differential for QSP travel.

- The committee was made aware that ND Housing Finance Agency submitted the state's HUD 811 PRA Grant Application and is now waiting to hear on approval. This included a request for \$2 million dollars to develop and fund 60-70 project based rental assistance units. The plan was to here on the application by late fall 2012.

- Housing Initiative staff provided information on the development of the housing data base located on the ND Centers for Persons with Disabilities website. The data base is searchable by city or region. It has contact information and outlines some of the options of the unit.

A review of the housing develop around the state was reviewed including some of the new affordable units being built by Lutheran Social Service, Beyond Shelter, and Metro Plains. Some of the challenges noted include delays by city councils dealing with neighbors not wanting the units built, costs of construction, difficulty securing funding, and the loss of current affordable housing units. New projects are opening include Tioga, Dickinson, Watford City, Minot, and Crosby.

The Housing Incentive Fund was reviewed with it being noted that funding has been committed to 23 projects for a total of 630 units. Efforts are being made to continue this tax credit program in the next legislative session.

- Workforce development efforts were discussed including the workforce meeting held this past summer. The recommendation to do cross training with the CNA, QSP, DSP staff. Work will be completed with the DD provider group to develop mass media efforts to recruit DSPs. Efforts will be made at job fairs and schools.

QSP educational sessions will be started in the month of October by the workforce development coordinator.

Efforts to provide information to students will also be made with programs like the Rural Health “Scrubs” Camp approach being one way to reach the grade and high school student’s.

- The LCA staff provided an update on the change to providing all of the LCA supports for the state. It was noted that each of the two staff provide services to one half of the state. The western half of the state has received 18 referrals and eastern half of the state has received 16 referrals. They are also providing ongoing phone consults as well.

The primary barriers that have been identified by the LCA staff include housing and support services.

- MFP Outreach to Nursing Facilities is still underway with a review call scheduled for 9/18/12.
- ND State Hospital Transition Assistance Fund was reviewed including that an additional \$25,000 was approved from the MFP rebalancing fund.
- Adult protective services were briefly discussed related to the legislative action that is being considered
- MFP Nurse Quality Program update was provided including that things are going well with the process. The third of the three visits are not easy to schedule due to the choice of the consumers.

- Rental Gap Assistance continues to be utilized and has been effective in assisting consumer leave institutional settings earlier while waiting for their housing vouchers.