

DDS North Region Advisory & Planning Council

April 16, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Bilyak, Joe Duffy, Deby Godsell, Collette Langner, Annette Scully, Jordan Scheff, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Donna Clauson, Walter Glomb, Ferne McAllister, Mary Lou O'Connor, Lisa Roland, Lori Sandora

Meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

It was agreed by members that 5:00pm would be a better time for regular meetings. Meetings will now be held at 5:00pm beginning with the meeting in May.

- Budget Update (Jordan Scheff) –
 - Family Support Grants (aka “one-time” money) – this is not annualized funding so the grants are used for things like respite, camps, necessary home modifications, ramps, etc. An additional \$250,000 will be added for each Region to be used for grants, which also can be used for in-home respite supports. These are not considered “in-home supports”, and people are only eligible if they have under \$20,000 of funding.
 - \$4.4 million was recommended to address needs of people on the Waitlist and target 100 people starting January 1st of next year. This has not been approved yet. There was also some confusion regarding what the start date was intended to be. If it began in July, it would only address the needs of 50 individuals instead of 100. This needs to be clarified. This would address needs of individuals living at home with aging caregivers (70 years and older). The amount recommended was based on an average cost of services.
 - Discussion regarding vacancies and development – Mr. Scheff shared that currently there are 50-55 vacancies and approximately 40 Emergencies (E's) that need placement. Development has mainly been of CRS homes which are 3-person, non-licensed homes. These are much more easily developed than licensed CLA's since licensed homes have to go through a lengthy RFP process and then, during construction, are much more restricted with having to meet specific fire (I2) codes. DDS has been trying to work with providers and families to ensure that CRS homes are developed planfully. Other vacancies could be in CCH settings, or another type of setting that is being worked on would be a Shared Living setting. This would be a clustered setting where a group of individuals live in a setting independently but all have access to 24-hour supports.
 - Waitlist Issue – Mr. Scheff began by stating that some people are under the assumption that when they make a request for residential placement, they are automatically added to “the list”. It used to be that there was a list of Priorities 3 (projected to need services in 3 years), 2, 1, and E (Emergencies). That is not the case any longer. Jordan clarified that it is true that if needs are being met with in-home supports, the person is removed from the waitlist. The concern for families is that if they accept in-home supports, they will be removed and will not be considered for residential services in the future. Jordan explained that being taken off of the list does not mean that they cannot be added back to the list if needs change in the future.

Mr. Scheff explained that there is a PRAT committee (Planning Resource Allocation Team) that meets once a week in every Region. The committee consists of the PRAT manager, Assistant Regional Directors from each division (Self-Determination, Private, Indiv. & Family Supports, and Public). Requests are received from case managers which have been reviewed by the Case Management Supervisor and the PRAT manager before the committee meeting (usually request submitted by Fri. and reviewed on Mon. for the meeting to be held on Tues.). The secretary for PRAT posts the minutes from meetings internally. The outcome form from the PRAT meeting is then sent to the case manager.

A question was asked if one Region was better than another in regards to money. Mr. Scheff stated that it is not. The regions do not deal with the cash directly. They are given a target and then Central Office looks at where any additional money needs to come from.

- One of the myths that Jordan would like to dispel is that we are not opening any more group homes. While it is true that DDS is doing much less development of licensed group homes because of all of the regulations, there has been much more development of CRS's which will continue.

Next RAC meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at **5:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Neumann

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary