

***DAIL Advisory Board  
May 9, 2013  
Comfort Inn, Berlin***

**Attendees:**

Board Members: Linda Berger, Max Barrows, Bill Ashe, Diane Novak, Harriet Goodwin, Steve Pouliot, Jim Coutts, Susan Gordon, Nancy Breiden, Peter Cobb (via phone), John Pierce

Guests: Sheila Burnham, Janet Dermody, Jackie Majoros, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Cheryl Cumings, Richard Atkinson,

State Employees: Bard Hill, Lora Nielsen, Megan Tierney-Ward, Camille George, Lisa Parro, Susan Wehry

March meeting minutes were approved as written.

April meeting minutes – There was a fairly lengthy discussion about the 2.5 million reduction in DS services, which is not reflected in the notes. Linda will look for her notes from the meeting and send Lisa some suggested language to add. Therefore, approval of these notes is being postponed until the June meeting.

**Choices for Care Evaluation** – Laney Bruner-Canhoto and Cheryl Cummings from UMASS (See PowerPoint handout)

The information being presented is the CFC evaluation activities as of today, including the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, (ADRD) Policy Brief, the Annual Evaluation report and future policy brief topics. The ADRD policy brief was recently released. The evaluation report is in the process of being finalized, and UMASS would like input from the Board to ensure that the report is policy relevant and actionable. UMASS is also looking for ideas for topics for the next policy brief.

For the ADRD policy brief, group and individual interviews took place and included providers, caregivers, representatives of the Governor’s Commission on ADRD and many other stakeholders. Over 85 individuals were interviewed via telephone and other programs across the country were also reviewed.

Some of the policy brief recommendations for best practices, identifying needs, and training include things such as:

- iPods in nursing facilities which have been proven to calm people;;
- Professional caregivers shifting the focus to the strengths of individuals;
- Training on flexible services, such as how to handle medications, use of behavioral supports and education/guidance for both the user and caregivers;
- Explore technology more, when possible. This has a broad spectrum: from Skyping for check-ins and using iPads for monitoring to creating smart houses;
- Safety options such as Making a door look like a bookcase so an individual does not wonder;
- Education and training on advanced contingency planning, such as power of attorney, increasing awareness of the financial eligibility look back of 5 years, and advanced financial planning. DAIL is encouraged to create a tool kit about these things. The Alzheimer's Association is providing training with these types of items and DAIL may want to link this to the information on the DAIL website for Options Counseling. Some suggested statewide training for programs about financial eligibility.
- The right training for CFC caregivers. There is a huge turnover of caregivers and of people receiving services in CFC. Some caregivers do not wish to have training; however some are looking for trainings to attend and support, as they have been thrown into the role. There should be consistent training, with the possibility of giving a caregiver skills and knowledge to work towards a long-term career.
- Case Managers, although they do not do the training, could connect care givers to trainings. .
- It would be helpful to have data on the individuals who become caregivers and pursue care giving as a profession, and those that move on. (DAIL and UMMS will look for this information and/or determine the feasibility of obtaining this information.)
- Develop a fact sheet on CFC eligibility process (including the 5-year look back and that families can request accommodations to complete the eligibility process) for public awareness;
- Ways to increase and/or enhance DAIL's ability to communicate with the work force – possibly a regular newsletter, information on caregivers pay stub, website with training information.

The recommendations tied to the ADRD policy brief for CFC also suggest actions which can be taken by other programs and agencies. The recommendations in the policy brief report are being discussed with the DAIL Advisory Board and will then be given to the department leadership team to prioritize, as not all of the recommendations can be done.

The Evaluation Report Key Findings and Domains focus on measures for which data are available and that are policy relevant and actionable. By using survey data from My Innerview and the HCBS consumer survey, the evaluation report more fully reflects the experiences of CFC consumers. For the My Innerview tool, the Board is interested in getting data by facility and not just statewide summaries. This year's report recommendations focused on the eligibility process, problem resolution in homemaker and flexible choices, reaffirmation of the principles and implementation of person-centered planning, waiting lists for moderate need consumers and the

on-going alignment of data collection instruments. . Moving forward, UMass will work to develop questions for all surveys that seek more information about personal goals and person centered planning. Once the report is finalized, it will be posted on the website.

*CFC Data report can be found at: <http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-publications/publications-cfc/cfc-qrtrly-data-rprts/cfc-data-report-march-2013-1>*

*The ADRD policy brief can be found at: <http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-publications/publications-cfc/evaluation-reports-consumer-surveys/cfc-adrc-policy-brief-feb-2103-2>*

The Board suggested that the next policy brief should focus on person-centered planning, including the Moderate Needs Group.

**Vermont Independent Support Workers, CY2012**

*(Chart Obtained after meeting)*

*data source: ARIS ISO, May 2013*

<u>Program/funding source</u>	<u>Workers serving one participant in calendar year</u>		<u>Workers serving more than one participant in calendar year</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	
-					
Developmental Services HCBS	3,108	67%	1,514	33%	4,622
Children's Personal Care Services	2,898	72%	1,129	28%	4,027
Children's Creative Connection	852	84%	168	16%	1,020
Choices for Care	1,676	85%	285	15%	1,961
Choices for Care Flex Choices	438	84%	85	16%	523
Attendant Services Program	142	85%	25	15%	167
<i>Column totals</i>	<i>9,114</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>3,206</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>12,320</i>
TOTAL unduplicated	8,291	78%	2,336	22%	10,627

**Board updates**

A Board member requested that the role of a case manager be reviewed again, as the role they have in CFC is evolving and it appears there may be some disconnect with the state and the local agencies. Review the definition, the expectations, and what is really being done. Obtaining information about the average caseload per agency would be helpful.

The annual Voices and Choices Conference is being held at the Sheraton in Burlington on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be a keynote speaker, dinner, lunch, and workshops led by people with disabilities. Last year there were 600 people in attendance.

In April, Max Barrows went to Washington DC to the disability seminar where discussions took place about policies that affect people with disabilities. The seminar is attended by people representing multiple disability groups.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disability ratification did not pass.

Steve Pouliot reported that the technology fair for people who are blind or visually impaired had the largest turnout ever. This fair included a special training by Daniel Keish.

### **Commissioner Wehry's Updates**

***DDAS Transition:*** Around January, DAIL began the process to convert the Division of Disability and Aging Services (DDAS) into two divisions: Adult Services Division (ASD) and the Developmental Services Division (*note: after this meeting it has been decided to call this division the Developmental Disabilities Services Division – DDS*). This change will officially take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Lora Nielsen became the Director of ASD. While a DS Director is being recruited, Jackie Rogers and Marybeth McCaffrey are filling in. DAIL has interviewed a number of candidates for the DS Director position using an involved process, including interviews with community members and providers; however the top candidate withdrew his application. Therefore, the recruitment for the position continues. The DS Director has oversight of mid-level managers for the Office of Public Guardian, Traumatic Brain Injury program and Developmental Services program. If you know of anyone who is interested in this position, please contact Jackie or Marybeth.

***Division of Licensing and Protection:*** Suzanne Leavitt, Director of the Division of Licensing and Protection (DLP), has announced that she is stepping down as director; however, she is planning to stay with the department. Recruitment for a DLP Division Director has just started. The DLP Division Director is responsible for the oversight of Adult Protective Services and Survey and Certification.

***Waterbury Planning:*** A meeting was held with the architect of the new Waterbury office complex. The front of the new complex is what was previously known as the back of the complex. Much of DAIL staff will be in the front of the building. The balance of open space vs.

private offices remains a concern. It would be good for the Advisory Board to see the architect drawings. Some of the buildings are being preserved, and some will be taken down as they were too badly damaged. FEMA has given verbal authorization on the destruction on the buildings. Ladd Hall is being sold for private use. The Weeks Building does not have any immediate use. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the steps after the demolition has been issued.

**Legislation:** The legislature is on track to go home on Saturday. The DAIL budget is proceeding and is in the Conference Committee. Legislators would like to see more attention given to identifying new systems of delivery in cost-effective ways. DAIL shares this interest. A legislative Developmental Services Work Group will be convening to find a 2.5 million dollar savings in developmental services, and they will report back to the legislature in September.

There are discussions taking place about individual care plans in the DS program, and whether moving forward there should be a cap at \$250,000, and/or whether the entire care plan budget for an individual should be reviewed when requests for new or increased services is submitted. Every three years, the DS System of Care Plan is reviewed. This year is the year it will be reviewed. Beginning in early September, a local needs assessment will be done and the information from this assessment will help draft the plan. The DAIL task force will also help frame a vision for the next 3 years. The proposed System of Care Plan is a 60 day process, with a public comment period and discussions with the DS Program Standing Committee.

There is language in the budget bill about the strategy for what to do with the Choices for Care reinvestment unobligated funds. DAIL should have more information about this by the next meeting. The Commissioner would like to share information about strategic reinvestments at the June meeting.

S.59 a bill which provides the opportunity for independent direct care workers to engage in collective bargaining has passed. The House reinserted a workforce council, which was removed by the Senate.

H.105 bill about Adult Protective Services reporting has ended up with some compromise language and may be passing from the general assembly. Basically it is the reporting that is currently being posted on the DAIL website. There are some items that are being requested starting in July which DAIL does not have the capacity to do; however, it is being worked on and everything should be ready by July.

**LGBTQ:** About 3 weeks ago, the Commissioner attended a meeting at the statehouse where LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queers) told some compelling stories about individuals and discrimination. Two individual support networks have been created, and there will be ongoing conversations taking place. GMSA have some support groups in place, and David Fry is creating additional groups.

**State Long-Term Care Ombudsman:** The Annual State Long-Term Care Ombudsman National Training Conference was held in Vermont last week. The conference attendance was at an all-time high, and included a week of networking, workshops, and visiting the legislature. At the

Statehouse, a proclamation honoring the state ombudsmen was read. Everyone was impressed with the things going on in Vermont and the accessibility of Vermont's legislature.

***CFC Moderate Needs Group:*** Further discussions about CFC moderate needs have to take place before discussions with the Board can occur. A plan should be in place by the June meeting. Funds not utilized by some of the organizations, and other areas that need funds, is one of the items the board has already heard about.

There will be no board meeting planned for August. This will be confirmed at the July meeting.