

DAIL Advisory Board
♥2/14/2013♥
Comfort Inn, Berlin

Attendees:

Board Members: Bill Ashe, Linda Berger, Robert Borden, Janet Cramer, Jim Coutts, Harriet Goodwin, Diane Novak and Steve Pouliot.

Guests: Sam Abel-Palmer, Nicole LeBlanc, Jackie Majoros, Laura Pelosi, Beth Stern, Beth Sightler and Marlys Waller.

State Employees: Marybeth McCaffrey, Will Rowe, June Bascom, Fred Jones, Karen Schwartz, Camille George, Janet Merrill and, Commissioner, Susan Wehry MD.

Consolidation of Medicaid Waivers: Marybeth McCaffrey, Division Director, Division of Disabilities and Aging Services, DAIL

The public notification of the plans to consolidate the Choices for Care (CFC) 1115 Long-Term Care Medicaid Waiver with the Global Commitment 1115 Medicaid Waiver has been posted here: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/news-info/global-commitment-to-health-demonstration-waiver-extension-request>. It is being referred to as the Global Commitment Extension Request. The public comment period is underway; and Marybeth will visit the Advisory Board at next meeting for group feedback. Information was e-mailed to Advisory Board yesterday.

The consolidation of waivers will essentially simplify the administrative reporting. AHS will continue to track State level financial information for Choices for Care and Global Commitment as is currently done. Administrative efficiencies should be realized for federal reporting, however.

The State is interested in taking advantage of the more general waiver terms and flexibilities present in the Global Commitment Waiver in its Choices for Care program. The State is hoping the Federal Government will allow CFC to take this approach. One advantage would be the possibility of using CFC funds to support a single menu of services for all of long-term care. This will not be explored until later. It is just an administrative change for now. The proposal also includes other changes for non long-term care services and supports.

Older American Month – May 2013 - Will Rowe, State Unit Operations Team Leader, DAIL

Since 1963 the nation has designated May as Older Americans' Month. This year the theme for the event is "*Unleash the Power of Age*". The Board was encouraged to promote Older

Americans Month by raising awareness of elders in our communities and recognizing them by creating a positive message around the State.

This will be an opportunity to create a cultural and positive awareness about older persons. Will invited members to suggest ways that the State can highlight OAA month and its theme.

Advisory Board members mentioned that through the Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging there were a number of individuals and organizations recognized at the State House annually. It was noted that then Lieutenant Governor Brian Dube, who provided a lot of leadership to the Healthy Aging Commission, attended the White House Conference on Aging and was a champion for older persons. Advisory Board members expressed concern that there is no one at the State House promoting this issue now. An interest was also voiced about receiving more information on the the demographics related to aging in Vermont.

Update on Self-Neglect Request for Proposals (RFP) – Will Rowe

DAIL recently issued a RFP to better address self-neglect in Vermont. The activities proposed were based on some of the recommendations made by the Self Neglect Task Force convened by the Commissioner last spring. The two key activities to occur include:

- Producing a community assessment of self-neglect in a community.
Based on that assessment, developing a plan on how to generate a coordinated community response as opposed to one person or organization, we need a group of responders on board in each community to address self-neglect.

In response to the RFP, DAIL received 5 proposals, one from each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). As a result, DAIL will be implementing grant agreements with the AAAs to implement the activities. Each AAA will receive \$50,000 to conduct this work. The original RFP allowed for up to 7 Grants with a maximum of \$50,000 each, for a statewide total of \$350,000. The remaining funds will be used to support case management services to people identified as self-neglecting. This was another one of the recommendations made by the Self Neglect Task Force.

Beth Stern noted that the Grants are for people over 60 so there will still be a hole for people under 60 and the disabled individuals dealing with self-neglect.

Three of the AAAs are interested in contracting with a UVM Professor of Social Work who has a special interest in aging to help develop the community needs assessment. Her dissertation was on homelessness of older adults. She is a researcher and would be working on the community assessment part of the RFP. DAIL will want to see a consistent approach to the needs assessments and will be following up with all of the AAAs to discuss.

The purpose of the RFP was to complete an assessment of the need and create a coordinated community response. It is anticipated that in year two the plans developed to implement the coordinated community response will be implemented. Any future funding is contingent upon successful attainment of prior year outcomes and available funding. Some expressed that there is already enough data and would like to be moving forward on the development. Members also feel it is important to have further discussion regarding the under 60 population.

Board member updates:

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is looking for input into the State Plan for 2014-2016. There are a variety of questions and the SILC would like to hear from constituents from around the State. Lisa Parro will send this out to the Advisory Board.

In reviewing the survey a question arose related to the meaning of “Trauma Informed Services”. Mark Kaufman from VCIL responded – it means services are available for people and provided by those who are informed on and sensitive to the needs of people in trauma. One example given was that for some people, they may prefer to work with providers who are not mandated reporters if they do not wish for a report to be made.

Senior Center RFP’s: Camille George, Deputy Commissioner, DAIL

DAIL has also recently posted 2 RFP’s focused on supporting Vermont’s senior centers:

1ST RFP: Enhancing Senior Center Capacity – This RFP provides opportunities for Senior Centers to apply for funding to address some of the challenges they are facing. Areas include: implementing evidence-based programs, marketing and outreach, board development, staff professional development and training, strategic planning, and services that support older adult independence. Funds cannot be used for capital improvements because of the source of funds. Bidders call in conference for this is on Feb. 15, 2013 from 11:00 – 12:00 pm.

2ND RFP: Facilitation of Activities to Support the Development and Management of Vermont Senior Centers. This RFP is broader and focuses on how we can support development and management of senior center networks, enhancing information and best practices, looking at developing and promoting standards, staff and management professional training and technical assistance for senior centers in Vermont. Grants are \$15,000 each for this one. Bidder call in conference for this proposal is on Feb.15, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

It was noted that there has been discussion of changing the definition of senior centers to include more of the communities they serve and either of these RFP’s might be a way to examine and evaluate that possibility.

Due date for both proposals: March 15, by 4:30 pm. Contact person: Mary Woodruff

Commissioner’s Updates: Commissioner Wehry, M.D.

Legislative Update: This morning Commissioner Wehry testified before the Senate Committee on Economic Development regarding S. 59 which proposes to allow collective bargaining by independent direct support workers. The Shumlin Administration supports the right of workers to collectively bargain. Initially, the legislation proposed that the State upgrade our direct care worker registry and attend to some of the trainings needs and requirements to create a qualified workers registry. This has now been removed from the bill.

Questions remains over the how to balance the rights and responsibilities of care recipient who is also sometimes the employer with the rights and responsibilities of the worker. The example

given was with the work environment where there is an interest in providing clean and safe working conditions for workers; however, in most cases this type of worker is providing services in the care recipient's home, who has the right to decide about his or her living conditions. Commissioner Wehry also noted that this legislation might include a role for the DAIL Advisory Board. Commissioner Wehry will keep the board updated on the status of this legislation as the session continues.

Budget Update:

Commissioner Wehry provided an overview of DAIL's SFY 15 Proposed Budget and noted that there is a lot of emphasis in focusing on Results Based Accountability when funding services: *What are you doing, how are you doing it and is anyone better off as a result of it?*

Commissioner Wehry provided the board with an overview of DAIL's four core divisions (please see power point handout for more information): Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI): there are no proposed adjustments, cuts or increases to DBVI in SFY 14.

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): there are no major changes proposed for DVR in the SFY 14 Budget.
- Division of Disability and Aging Services (DDAS): There are 2 key drivers of the budget involving DDAS:
 - Developmental Services:
 - Governor's Budget \$170 million
 - Serve about 2600 people in DS waiver program
 - Flexible Family Funding Program 1000 families served.

Employment was made a key measure for DS in 2012 and a target was set at 45% - 3 agencies exceeded the target 13 below the target but all agencies were achieving progress.

Overall the Statewide employment rate increased from 36% in 2010 to 41% state 2012. 1030 people out of 2575 are served in by Developmental Services in the workforce.

One question in Developmental Services is whether we have asked for sufficient money. The current formula is based on 3 years of history. This year we arrived at \$7.5 million. This year DS experienced financial problems and was running out of funds. DAIL is working with the DS providers to determine where the drivers were coming from and made adjustments to cover funding needed to the end of the year. We continue to be concerned about the drivers so put in an additional request for \$3 million in the SFY 13 Budget Adjustment Act. In the SFY 14 Proposed Budget, there is a down of \$ 2.5 million, stating that we will look for ways to decrease our expenditures.

The final budget for DS is \$165.2 million dollars in our Governor recommend. In addition to the request for DS, the SFY 14 Proposed Budget includes a \$1.9

million request for services for people with Serious Functional Impairment (SFI) and Complex Community Cases (CCC).

Choices for Care: In CFC, the Governor proposes a budget of \$177 million. Some of the pressures in CFC are tied to statutory increases for nursing homes. There is also an increase anticipated due to the Medicaid “bump.” Details of the Medicaid bump are still being discussed and more information will be provided when it becomes available. Commissioner Wehry added that there is also a lot of discussion in the legislature around the definition of “savings” in CFC. H. 140 has been introduced to require a definition of “savings” and how any savings may be spent. The State is proposing to define savings as the difference between what is appropriated and what we spend. In SFY 12, there was \$7.9 million dollars at the end of the year.

Some of the ways funds were spent include:

- Bought back cuts that had been proposed in the budget: \$800,000.
- Bought back a 2009 2% rescission to the budget across all provider groups.
- Increased the daily rate of ACCS assisted living group.

Two Areas we fell short on:

- Self-Neglect \$350,000.
- Mental Health Initiative \$225,000.

This was caused by a time element – we just ran out of time. Self-Neglect Grants are currently in process and will be going out soon.

- Division of Licensing and Protection (DLP): there are no major proposed changes for DLP in the SFY 14 Proposed Budget.

Developmental Disability Services

Brandon Training School – 20th Anniversary of its Closing American with Disabilities Act – 23rd Anniversary of its Signing

June Bascom with DDAS introduced herself to the group. She has been working with many groups to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the closing of Brandon Training School this year. She is working in conjunction with Fred Jones, David Sagi and many others to recognize the 23rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

She presented the group with a handout highlighting some history and events that will be taking place throughout the year in Vermont.

While researching the history of the Brandon Training School at the State Archives in Middlesex, she learned that Act 81 was passed in 1913. This four page document was for the creation of the facility 100 years ago. It was built in two years and had three names, the last

being Brandon Training School. It opened in 1915 as VT State School for Feeble Minded Men, Women and Children. She is collecting information from all sources to inform the public about the Brandon Training School. Many people today are not even aware that it ever existed.

She noted that there are plans to have media and public service announcements involved with acknowledging the scheduled events. Also, a website and Facebook Page are being developed and she will let us know when they are available.

Fred Jones with DBVI spoke to the group about recognizing the work of the American with Disabilities Act. He mentioned the presentation each year by the Vermont Center of Independent Living. He spoke about his experience attending the event. Mark Kaufman from VCIL updated the group on the plans for this year's event which will be much bigger.

In addition to this event David Sagi from DVR has been evaluating the accessibility of public places and is working on a directory to be placed on the Vocational Rehabilitation website.

Fred then asked the group to share their thoughts about ADA events in general by answering three general questions on successful events.

1. A successful ADA event or celebration *results in what?*
2. A successful ADA Celebration *is what?*
3. A successful ADA Celebration *has what?*

A suggestion was made that perhaps, if information is being handed out that a description of what the ADA does should be included. Many people are unaware of their purpose and think of them as merely as causes for remodeling of old buildings. Interest in having a public service announcement message that would say: "Before the ADA "I couldn't get on the bus" or "I couldn't get off the curb to cross the street". It would be a great way to raise awareness.

Fred thanked everyone for their ideas.

Meeting ended at 2:20 p.m.