

Developmental Services Legislative Workgroup Meeting

August 7, 2013

Attendees: William Ashe, James A Caffry, Camille George, Nicole LeBlanc, Stirling Peebles, Cheryl Phaneuf, Douglas Racine, Jackie Rogers, Susan Yuan, Susan Wehry, Marie Zura,

Visitors Present: Jim Euber, David Peebles, June Bascom, Karen Swartz, Marlys Waller, Karen Topper, Martha Heath, Sam Able-Palmer

I. Check In with Members

- Cheryl Phaneuf presented her research of developmental services internationally. She concluded that the United States is very much in the forefront of providing services. She and Jim Caffry also sent some helpful articles not just on international models, but general "food for thought" information for this group, including Planning Lifelong Advocacy Network (plan).
- Nicole LeBlanc brought a video to share on living with technology, Living the Life.
- Susan Yuan reported that research finds that the least expensive way to provide services is that in which the individual lives at home with community and/or work supports. She cautioned that if we are going to depend on it we need to rebuild it.
- Jackie Rogers sent a note to look at a federal Medicaid state plan proposed rule called "Community First Choice Option" .
- Marie Zura reported that DS Directors thought if there was some help with accessing Section 8 housing vouchers that more people could be served cost-effectively.
- Bill Ashe shared some follow up data from the discussion at the last meeting, to be reviewed in the future.

II. Brainstorming Recommendations to Save \$2.5 million in State Fiscal Year 2014:

- Commissioner Wehry reviewed overall funding for Developmental Services, the need to find \$2.5 million and then reviewed the case planning process that leads to service delivery.
- In order to be eligible for developmental services home-and community-based services (HCBS) a person must be found clinically eligible and also must meet a System of Care Plan (SOCP) funding priority. It was highlighted that over 40% of the people who are clinically eligible are found not to meet a SOCP funding priority.
- It was noted that when thinking about recommendations, there are probably more than one driver, or trigger, that contributes to cost and the cause should be linked to the solution.
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The group reviewed the list of ideas that had already been submitted by work group members and added to the list (the full list of ideas is posted on the website at: <http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-projects/dds-legislative-work-group/dds-legislative-work-group>).

- There were a number of consistent themes and areas of possible focus raised in the recommendations: family support, residential options and employment were among the recommendations.

III. Homework:

- Camille George offered to conduct further research on quality assurance and potential cost savings overall (that also ensures quality, provides technical assistance, etc).
- Susan Yuan will get information on family support nationally, definitions, NADDS grant

- DAIL will re-supply the savings estimate if services are capped at \$250,000 (look at both new and existing side by side).
- Future homework for DAIL: Research 1115 Global Commitment requirements (Standard Terms and Conditions) about any rules/agreements/prohibitions on paying rent, and/or potential Managed Care Organization (MCO) Investment opportunities to try new residential approaches.
- Future Homework: Look at whether there is a way agencies could bridge housing (such as using one-time funds)
- DAIL will find out about some of the waivers and/or special permissions the Department of Mental Health received around some residential options to see if they might be worth pursuing in developmental services.
- DAIL will project cost savings for many of the recommendations work group members provided.
- Future Discussion: Is there some sort of Flexible Family Funding and/or some sort of carve out from Integrated Family Services (IFS) to ensure and possibly expand this type of resource for adults?
- DAIL will organize the recommendations received into those that we can do now versus those that can be done later and complete an analysis for further discussion at the next meeting.
- All members: take the list of recommendations back to the groups they are representing for their input and bring that to the next meeting.

Public Comments

- Ideas of giving people more input should be explored.
- Like the idea of pilots with measurable outcomes to evaluate how well they work.
- There needs to be a clear process around consensus and decision making. GMSA offered to help with that. (Camille George will follow up with Karen Topper to discuss this further).
- Housing Vouchers: It is important to remember that it is not just about money, but people feeling lonely and having the support that they need.
- Encourage people to include kinship supports and not just natural family, community, interfaith, look at potential for housing partnerships.
- Quality Assurance is a key component of this and can be linked to Utilization Review.
- In thinking about caps on high end programs, there should be more discussion of established programs versus reinventing the wheel. Also, it was suggested that we create structures statewide as a way to contain some costs.
- Engage in creative discussions with housing providers. (Sarah Carpenter) Targeted Case Management - examine whether that should be expanded and/or could include Peer Support – could we look at an MCO investment – peer support could be a safety valve and maximize that resource.
- Look at pursuing family support.

Refugees: we can't predict who's coming in, Butanese may be leveling off, but the needs of the people may be increasing, the number of people coming to Vermont will probably be up and down over time.

Future Agenda Items for Final Meeting on August 27:

Review materials Bill Ashe provided, review DAIL materials;

Review draft report with recommendations, work group members come to August 27 meeting with input from the groups that they represent, finalize recommendations to be presented to the Joint Fiscal Committee. (Note: it may be necessary to send another draft out after the 8/27 meeting for final input by e-mail.