

1. Attendance and affiliation of participants

Members in Attendance:

Mr. John V. Doherty– Chair, Combined Community Services Board
Ms. Karen Avery, Independence *First*
Ms. Shirin Cabraal sitting in for Liz Ford, Disability Rights Wisconsin
Reverend Luci L. Gaynor Hunter, Consumer
Mr. Barry Kress, Consumer
Mr. Thomas A. Nowak, ACSW, LCSW, Midwest
Ms. Nealy Rothe, Consumer
Ms. Cindy Bentley, People First of Wisconsin
Mr. E.B. Coleman, Prestigious Academy, Inc.
Ms. Valerie Woods, Milwaukee County, CMO
Mr. Rich Hintz, CCLS, Inc.
Ms. Alicia Griffin, *Sevendipity Communications*
Mr. Jonathan Swiams, Graceful Living Center
Ms. Barbara Moore, Community Care
Ms. Cathy Simpson, Combined Community Services Board of Consumer
Ms. Molly Jilgenbach, Goodwill Industries
Ms. Melinda Kiltz, ARC of Greater Milwaukee
Mr. Brad Peele, MCDA
Ms. Joyce Binder, iCare
Mr. Royce Austin, SEIU
Ms. Diana Tapio, Consumer
Ms. Caryn Moczynski, MCFI

Staff Representatives:

Ms. Maria Ledger, Milwaukee County Department on Aging
Mr. Corey Hoze, Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. Leslie Taylor Cooley, Consultant to DSD
Ms. Geri Lyday, DSD, Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Mark Stein, DSD, Department of Health and Human Services

2. List highlights of discussion from agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Doherty welcomed everyone for attending the meeting

Communication Plan Update

- The committee was informed that Geri Lyday received a phone call from Donna McDowell of Department of Human Services in Madison, WI regarding Family Care expansion. It was stated that the dollars reflected in the March 16, 2009 letter Geri received are the dollars that are being appropriated for the DRC beginning August 1, 2009 to November 2010. There is an additional one-time Waiver fund of \$940,000 to help support the enrollment process during the transition.
- It was noted that the first year the Governor's budget does not include funding to take people off of the waiting list in Milwaukee County the first year. DSD would therefore be transitioning existing waiver participants first and not enrolling persons on the wait list until November 2010.
- It was announced that Secretary Timberlake will be attending the Long Term Council meeting at the Reuss building on March 26th at 1:30 p.m. and individuals were encouraged to attend that meeting.
- A question was raised concerning training for staff who will be doing option counseling. Ms. Lyday indicated that her division has been working on the training plan as well as quality assurance processes. There will be approximately four or five long-term care options for individuals to choose

from. The plan now is to transition waiver participants and in the thirteenth month (November 2010) begin to start taking people off of the waiting list. There are some training sessions that are going to be set up with Disability Rights of Wisconsin as well as IndependenceFirst.

- It was announced that the Joint Committee on Finance will be meeting at the Tommy Thompson Center on Wednesday, March 25th. It was suggested that people attend this meeting to testify and support people getting off of the waiting list.
- A question was raised whether people will be able to get feedback from the meeting that will be held on March 26th at the Long Term Care Council for people who are not able to attend?
- It was noted that communication with consumers must be finalized. Ms. Lyday stated that letters are being composed for the mass mailing to people who are waiver participants and eventually to those on the wait list.
- It was stated that the budget still presents significant challenges and that all options are being looked at. It needs to be demonstrated that we can be fiscally viable as we move into Family Care.
- A question was asked if there is a remote possibility that things may be pushed back to January 2010? The reply was that Milwaukee County is looking at the budget and one of the options being considered was whether it made fiscal sense to wait until January 2010, where we would have a complete year of Resource Center funding.
- It was brought before the committee that parents are calling in to People Can't Wait who have children with disabilities and are upset because these parents don't have anywhere for their children to go since they are now out of school and there is a wait list. It was stated that there are a lot of upset parents waiting for services.
- It was noted that Milwaukee County is the only county waiting the extra year for people to get off of the waiting list. One option is to prioritize people from the wait list who do not have any services or are in critical need. A suggestion was made to serve our waiver participants the first six months and start bringing on people from the waiting list the second six months.
- A question was raised whether there was any anticipated impact with the State's proposal to assume the Economic Support Division (ESD) services on the roll out of Family Care? The response was that it is still too early in the process to know the impact. There have been meetings with the State and ESD but there are more questions than answers. The State indicated that they would like to keep as much of the current staff as possible in the new model.
- It was noted that the longer we wait, the State might stop the expansion of Family Care. It was stated that once the waiver program is gone, they will not be bringing it back.
- It was noted that the State has not taken into account the revenue that could be generated by the Disability Resource Center in the community. By delaying DRC start up and addressing the wait list, the less money the community would receive.

Update on Disability Resource Center (DRC) Application and Implementation

- A brief update on the DRC Application and Implementation was given. The DRC is planned to begin August 2009. On November 1, 2009 the CMOs would begin enrolling adults with disabilities. Immediate enrollees who can come off the list right away are people in Child Caring Institutions (CCI) kids who are turning 18 years old transitioning into DSD, and nursing home individuals and individuals from the State centers.
- The State is preparing to award contracts to three care management organizations in Milwaukee County: Department on Aging, Community Care Organization and iCare. iCare's programs would be primarily for their SSI group to expand and provide community based services for that group. IRIS would be offered on a statewide basis. Community Care would be providing Family Care, Partnership and PACE programs.
- It was noted that the Disability Benefits Specialist program has been delayed for six months and the dollars are not included in the cost model until that time.

Update on Care Management Organization (CMO) Request for Proposal (RFP)

- It was noted that Department on Aging received a letter from the State regarding the certification process. Every CMO has to be certified. The CMO is looking at their provider network and quality practices to make sure everything meets standards. November 1st will be the start date to enroll individuals. Meetings are still continuing with Department on Aging and Disabilities Services Division to ensure a smooth transition.
- It was noted by Ms. Simpson that advocates and consumers should pressure the State to address the wait list sooner. Due to the size of Milwaukee County and with the highest level of poverty there should not be a longer delay in services. It was asked in what capacity is Secretary Timberlake going to address the meeting on March 26th Long Term Care Council. Concerns should be put in writing and presented to Secretary Timberlake at the March 26th meeting.
- It was noted that there are basically two concerns; 1) that advocates and consumers are not happy that people have been waiting so long for services and are not going to be served; and 2) people have worked very hard planning for this new system of managed care with the understanding that the wait list would be served.
- It was indicated that we need to have people that are affected by this attend the March 26th meeting.
- It was noted that the timeline issued by the State is unacceptable due to all of the work and planning that has been put into initiating Family Care. Why can other counties have individuals come off of the waiting list and Milwaukee County, which has the most diversified population and individuals who have been waiting the longest, not have its waiting list served. There are so many compelling reasons that Milwaukee County should have been recognized.
- It was announced that there will be an advocacy team meeting at IndependenceFirst, 540 S. 1st St. from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
- It was noted that there must be a presence at these meetings to show involvement and support. Attending the March 26th meeting with Secretary Timberlake would make a good impression. It must be stressed that the Secretary will see that the people will not go away.
- It was noted that there should also be advocacy for more funds for the Disability Resource Center to operate.
- It was stated that everyone should attend the Joint Committee on Finance. It was noted that everyone should put their testimony in writing, make copies and leave it for the committee.
- Melinda Kiltz offered her services in helping people write their testimony to present at the Joint Committee on Finance meeting.
- It was suggested by the Chairman that a small team help craft a communication on behalf of the Consumer/Stakeholder group as well as testimony for the March 26th meeting. Several individuals volunteered. He asked Leslie Taylor Cooley work with the group to develop a draft. Melinda Kiltz stated she will be attending both meetings and can present the testimonies.

Item #5 will be picked up at next Stakeholder/Consumer meeting.

Item #6: Next meeting will take place Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: Meeting has since be rescheduled to Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.