

**1. Attendance and affiliation of participants**

Members in Attendance:

Mr. John V. Doherty– Chair, Combined Community Services Board  
Ms. Karen Avery, IndependenceFirst  
Ms. Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights, Wisconsin  
Reverend Luci L. Gaynor Hunter, Consumer  
Mr. Barry Kress, Consumer  
Ms. Nealy Rothe, Consumer  
Ms. Cindy Bentley, People First of Wisconsin  
Mr. Jonathan Swiams, Graceful Living Center  
Ms. Barbara Moore, Community Care  
Ms. Cathy Simpson, Combined Community Services Board and Parent of Consumer  
Ms. Molly Jilgenbach, Goodwill Industries  
Ms. Melinda Kiltz, ARC of Greater Milwaukee  
Ms. Vicki Wachniak, ARC Milwaukee  
Ms. Michelle Martini, IndependenceFirst  
Ms. Angie Perez, iCare  
Mr. Royce Austin, SEIU  
Ms. Rebecca Reis, UCP  
Ms. Diana Tapio, Consumer  
Ms. Lois Degner, Midwest Community Services  
Ms. Vanessa Monroe, Consumer  
Mr. Bob Schneeberg, Goodwill, Inc.  
Ms. Martha Chambers, UCP  
Mr. Perry Mueller, Community Care, Inc.

Staff Representatives:

Ms. Maria Ledger, Milwaukee County Department on Aging  
Ms. LisaJo Marks, Department of Health and Human Services  
Ms. Geri Lyday, DSD, Department of Health and Human Services  
Mr. Mark Stein, DSD, Department of Health and Human Services  
Ms. Barbara Simmons, Behavioral Health Division  
Ms. Jennifer Collins, County Board Staff

**2. List highlights of discussion from agenda:**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Chairman Doherty welcomed everyone for attending the meeting

**Update on Disability Resource Center (DRC) Application and Implementation:**

- Geri Lyday stated that DSD needs to report to the County Board Health and Human Needs Committee (H&HN) when ready to sign the application for DRC. DSD is in the process of putting together policies and procedures for Family Care. There are considerable details to comply with. There is a concern with timeframe to transition waiver participants in November and December which are heavy vacation months for our staff. DSD will make sure to have the transition plan in place to start options counseling. She noted that there are some fiscal challenges that are being worked on.

- Mark Stein stated that it is confirmed to go ahead with the DRC. It was noted that in 2010 there will be some budget issues with the County. There will be a shortfall with the DRC even with the adjustments that were made with staffing. The DRC will be one part of the Division when Family Care transition is complete, but there still are some programs that DSD will need to operate. Revenue is lost through waiver administrative dollars once everyone is transitioned to Family Care.
- Geri Lyday noted that the majority of individuals will transition during CY 2010. The current DSD budget of approximately \$101 million will reduce to approximately \$23 million which reflects the loss of \$80 million in service dollars and administrative/case management revenue. This is why there is a challenge as the Division looks at 2010. On top of this Milwaukee County has a deficit that needs to be addressed. The money that will be lost will be Medicaid Waiver funding.
- Rev. Gaynor-Hunter asked will we lose some of the people off of the waiting list and what will happen to the people on the wait list? How many people are on the waiting list?
- Geri Lyday replied the waiting list people will not start transitioning until November of 2010. There are approximately 2800 people on the waiting list. The waiver participants will be the first to receive services.
- Mr. Doherty asked once the staff is shifted, how many full time staff will be left after the transition in DSD?
- Geri Lyday responded there are 94 now and after the staff shifts there will be approximately 35 to 40 in the course of three years. It was stated that staff cannot be reduced too quickly because they are needed to do the transitioning of the waiver participants. Staff will be doing option counseling until everyone gets transitioned. There has been considerable training with the staff which has been quite a bit to digest. DSD still needs H&HN approval for Family Care which is anticipated during June of 2009. By this time we should know the revenue that will be given. There will probably be additional tax levy needed in spite of the County anticipated deficit.
- Cindy Bentley indicated that she has spoken with Senator Taylor and that the Senator stated she will do whatever she can to get people off of the waiting list. It was suggested a sit-in at the State Capitol with the advocates.
- Barry Kress asked in regards to the \$80 million, when is the State going to start making their cut? How many people does the State expect not to be on the waiting list in 2010?
- Michelle Martini asked how is it decided who gets services first out of the individuals who are currently receiving services?
- Geri Lyday responded that everyone would start from their case load. The Human Service Worker will start with their caseload for existing participants. It must be explained to individuals so that they understand that the waiver will be going away and they would need to make a decision on their option.
- Michelle Martini asked is there a deadline in making their decision?
- Geri Lyday replied that we are trying to encourage individuals to make their enrollment decision within 30 to 45 days. Enrollment date will start in November of 2009.
- Mark Stein commented that selecting individuals for transition is complex. An example of the requirements is that enrollment dates should not coincide with financial eligibility review dates. Also, the State is requiring enrollment based on consistent average overall service costs each month of current individuals from the Waiver programs. DSD will finalize the transition plan with the State staff.

- Geri Lyday introduced LisaJo Marks, Interim Director of DHHS who has been working with us regarding the wait list.
- Ms. Marks stated that there are huge fiscal issues with the State and that more voices need to be heard.
- Mark Stein gave a brief update regarding a meeting with the State taking over the Economic Support Division. The main concern is consistency of staff able to perform financial recertification tasks which is very critical.
- DRW stated they have been in touch with the State regarding this issue and they will continue to be a strong voice in this function with the State and staff.

#### **Update on Care Management Organization (CMO) Activities**

- Maria Ledger stated that Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA) Care Management Organization (CMO) is going into their annual review audit and are also working toward certification for expansion. The first enrollment date of November means materials need to be submitted by July of 2009. They have been meeting with the State bi-weekly and staying within the timetables. The State is offering training to care managers and are starting to involve people working specifically with persons with disabilities. They will continue to work on making sure they stay on track with the timetable.
- Diane Tapio feels the State's only concern is finances. She stated she was on the waiting list for seven years before she received services. You must call on a weekly basis to know where your stance is on the waiting list.
- Cathy Simpson asked how are the other counties functioning with family care? How affective are their programs? Are we going to have enough funding to make it through?
- Maria Ledger stated that there are nine managed care organizations in Wisconsin. Important to remember that there are three separate things going on, funding for DRC, wait list and getting the waiver participants services in the new expansion options. There is funding for services and the DRC is separate.
- John Doherty stated we need to advocate for the best services. The funding will not get better unless we push through the doors now with the State to get more funding. Need to advocate for resources so people can receive sufficient resources and services be of high quality. These are really critical times as far as funding.
- Karen Avery indicated that the State has a sub-committee who were presented with information for Family Care which is on line.

#### **Legislative/Advocacy Update**

- Barbara Beckert of DRW stated that it is important we contact our policy makers and elected officials in Madison, WI. The Legislative Breakfast was a success. She is hopeful that we will get additional funding to get people off of the waiting list. The deficit is significantly larger than anticipated. Ms. Beckert was informed by Representative Tamara Grigsby's office they cannot tell her what amount of funding they can commit to due to the fact that they need to cut \$1.6 million as well as cutting staff. Ms. Beckert will be meeting with Representative Grigsby on May 15, 2009 at the State Capitol. Ms. Beckert informed the committee that there will be a press conference at the State Capitol on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. She requested that people write to the Journal/Sentinel voicing their views on the State's deficit. She is encouraging all advocate groups from throughout the State to attend this press conference.
- Cathy Simpson asked when is the final vote on the budget?

- Barbara Beckert stated they plan to finish the budget at the end of the month. After it is done, it will go to the Assembly and then to the Senate for approval by the Governor to sign in July.
- Geri Lyday stated that we need to remember the benefit for anyone who meets the criteria and gets off of the waiting list, they can receive services right away. However, it is unfortunate timing due to the deficit with the State and County budget.
- Karen Avery stated that educational sessions have been held in various regions for consumers and family members to education them on family care. They are planning to do a series of workshops and seminars over the summer regarding option counseling and are hopeful that Geri will help get the word out.
- Vickie Wachniak followed up with the Legislative Breakfast that took place. 390 individuals attended and 12 of the 25 Legislators invited also attended. Thank you letters were sent out. The Legislators, who were not in attendance, received a packet along with a list of our constituents. One hundred and thirty-three individuals at the breakfast completed and sent a post card or testimony regarding their issues. ARC staff members called people who participated providing them the name of their Legislator and share language they can use in speaking with their Legislator. They asked people if they feel they could make a commitment and about 80% had done so. She suggested that the Legislative Breakfast should be made an annual function. It was suggested that people call on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and voice their concerns.

#### **Discussion on the Policy of Utilizing Basic Community Aids to Help Fund Disability Resource Center**

- Geri Lyday suggested that we should wait on this item for discussion.

#### **ADRC Governing Board Appointments and DRC Sub-Committee Appointments**

- John Doherty asked that people sign up for committee appointments. He referred to the chart on the structure of the committees. Members are needed that are effective and outspoken.
- Geri Lyday asked if we want someone to come in to talk about Family Care from another county, i.e., adjacent counties and someone from a county further out. She indicated that we are the only county that is split with Aging and younger persons with Disabilities.
- Cathy Simpson stated it would help to have a consumer including an advocacy group be invited.
- Barbara Beckert suggested that there be a separate meeting regarding ADRC committees including someone from another county.
- Michelle Martini suggested that we need to discuss that group of people that would not qualify for Family Care at the next meeting.

**Next meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**