

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting June 28, 2010

Members Present:

Pat Compton	Mike Schafer	Cindy Fisher
Mary Angus	Mike Hon	
Patty Pierson	Kerry Michael	

Members Represented

Heath Body (Brendon Polt – Nebraska Health Care Association)

Members Not Present:

Jamie Summerfelt	Rich Brandow	Jerry Campbell
Lori Harder	Marla Fischer-Lempke	Mark Intermill
Mark Schultz	Heath Boddy	Connie Cooper

State Staff Present:

Chad Frank – DHHS	Kay Wenzl – DHHS
Stacey Brunner – DHHS	Cindy Kadavy – DHHS
Bil Roby – DHHS	Hope Whitaker-Blackmore – DHHS
Debbie Lewis – DHHS	Leslie Novacek – Assistive Technology Partnership

Call to Order

Bil Roby, Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 10:08am, June 28, 2010 in the conference room of Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

The meeting began with a brief discussion as to whether a meeting quorum had been reached. The meeting continued in anticipation of late arrivals. Bil acknowledged the meeting is conducted under the Open Meetings Act, requested members of the public to sign the Public Comment Sheet if they wished to speak, and for panel members and state staff to sign the Advisory Panel meeting sheet. He stated the meeting notification and agenda is distributed to Stakeholders, Advisory Panel members, and state staff; meeting date, time, and place are posted on the Public Calendar of the State of Nebraska official government website.

Introduction / Welcome (cont.)

Bil introduced and welcomed Patty Pierson, the State Long-term Care Ombudsman, Division of Medicaid and Long-term Care, as a new panel member. Patty's appointment to the panel came as a result of the project's site visit by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS); it was recommended that panel membership be increased to provide additional perspective from an advocacy viewpoint. Bil briefly introduced state staff attending the meeting. A quorum was not present; the meeting continued with approval of the February 22 and April 26 minutes deferred until the next meeting.

Agenda Discussion:

CMS / New MFP Eligibility Requirements – Effective April 22, 2010, with the passage of the Health Care Reform Act, MFP eligibility requirements have changed:

- Nursing facility residency days have been reduced to 90 days from 180 days. One exception exists to the new requirement: Any days that an individual resides in an institution solely for the purposes of receiving short-term rehabilitative services would be excluded from the 90 consecutive-day inpatient facility requirement.
- Medicaid-eligible days have been reduced from 30 days to one day. The new definition requires that an individual be receiving Medicaid benefits for services for one day to be eligible for the MFP program.

Further discussion briefly centered on the actual determination of nursing facility days: NMFP Transition Coordinators would be responsible for the 90-day determination based upon physicians' orders and the Minimum Data Set. Brendon Polt recommended using RUG levels to determine 90-day eligibility. Bil provided examples of days in facilities which were permitted versus days that were solely used for the purposes of receiving rehabilitation.

CMS Project Officer Visit – Bil described the project's CMS site visit. The first day was devoted to introductions, presentations, and discussion. The second day consisted of visits to NMFP transitioned consumers by Kate King, CMS / MFP Project Officer, and Gail Brown, CMS Regional Office. The visits were conducted without NMFP staff and considered in a positive light overall. Open discussion and closing comments by Kate ended the site visit on the third day.

Bil touched on the subject of the new partnership between NMFP and the League of Human Dignity/Centers for Independent Living (Independent Living Centers - ILC's) and discussed with the Project Officer during the site visit, as a new approach to provide outreach to residents in nursing facilities. Bil described how the visits are conducted by NMFP staff and ILC Independent Living Advisors and that the visits provide additional information, from an ILC perspective, to individuals who are interested in transitioning.

Patty Pierson inquired whether challenges to the program were discussed at the site visit. Bil replied the program faces a challenge in reaching its transition benchmark and noted a number of approaches including the joint

Agenda Discussion (cont.)

partnership with the ILC's and conferring with other MFP states.

Pat Compton asked about housing challenges the Transition Coordinators faced. She recommended group action be taken concerning the lack of accessible housing. She explained the Department of Economics' Annual Action Plan (which updates the state's five-year plan on addressing housing and community development needs throughout the state) would provide an opportunity to relay housing concerns and issues faced by aged or disabled individuals transitioning from nursing facilities. The Annual Action Plan is scheduled for a public comment period in November with an anticipated adoption of the Plan in January 2011. Pat suggested contacting builders about the need for accessible housing and taking a proactive stance as the Annual Action Plan is developed. She also advised contacting Lara Huskey (Economic Development Division Administrator and former Advisory Panel member) in regards to the Annual Action Plan. Lastly, in preparation for the Public Comment period, Pat suggested inviting advocates to put forward the argument that accessible housing is needed.

Discussion turned to whether databases existed that could provide the number of accessible housing units by locality. Pat noted housing.ne.gov provides accessible housing information and the Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority (www.nifa.org) has similar information about accessible housing units in larger complexes and tax credit projects. Mike Schafer suggested the Omaha HUD office as an additional resource for accessible housing information.

Bil presented a technical assistance guide for housing resources and strategies and asked if panel members would like a copy. Guides will be provided to panel members as a hardcopy or electronic copy.

Transition Activity / Outreach Report – Figures detailing transition and outreach activity were presented. Transition figures below represent a current, unduplicated count of all individuals transitioned under NMFP. Transitions to Assisted Living facilities are not included. Presentations represent a combined total of facilities, hospitals, groups, associations, etc. in which outreach was conducted. Total one-to-one outreach visits represent individual contact with residents to discuss home-and-community based services.

<u>Total Transitions:</u>	72
<u>Total Outreach Presentations:</u>	517
<u>Total One-to-One Outreach Visits:</u>	756

Figures represent transitions and outreach efforts from the start of the program through June 30, 2010.

Updates:

Submission of 100% Request Letter – Bil described the 100% request letter to be submitted to CMS: staff salaries as well as travel, Advisory Panel, and statewide media campaign expenses will be included in Nebraska's 100% federal administrative match proposal.

Updates (cont.)

Housing – HUD/CMS Housing Choice Vouchers – Discussion, questions, and answers in regards to the HUD/CMS Notice of Funding Availability covered:

- Five Nebraska Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) have applied for the vouchers: Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff, and Hall County
- Category I consists of 4300 vouchers available nation-wide to non-elderly (under age 62) physically disabled individuals
- Category II consists of 1000 vouchers available nation-wide to non-elderly (under age 62) physically disabled individuals transitioning out of institutions
- Omaha and Lincoln are applying for Category I vouchers, 200 and 250 respectively; the other applicants are finalizing the number of vouchers and category/categories to request
- The vouchers, if granted to a PHA, must be used within a year
- PHA's in non-MFP states may apply for Category II vouchers
- Non-elderly disabled individuals in Category I or II must be on a PHA waiting list in order to receive a voucher
- Anticipated announcement of awards – September

Discussion touched on landlords and willingness to accept vouchers, discrimination and Fair Housing laws, and the provision of case management to oversee disabled households.

Partnership with Independent Living Centers – discussed earlier in meeting; started June 1, 2010.

Statewide Media Campaign – Discussion with the Department's Office of Communication and Information regarding the development of two 30-second television spots to be aired statewide is still in progress. An advertisement specifically directed to nursing facility residents and NMFP transition assistance was placed in the Lincoln Journal Star's Prime Time magazine.

Bil asked the panel members if they had any other comments before the meeting was to be adjourned. Mary Angus requested NMFP staff keep the Advisory Panel apprised if budget cuts impacted transitioning efforts or supportive services for those individuals transitioned to the community. Hope Whitaker inquired whether the State of Nebraska would pursue extending the NMFP project. Bil replied that a determination has not yet been made, that the program will be evaluated overall by the Division, and that CMS requires notification by September 30, 2011 if the state opts not to extend the program.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lewis
NMFP Staff Assistant