

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting August 25, 2008

Members Present:

Paul Maginn
Mary Angus
Mike Hon
Richard Brandow

Jerry Campbell
Marla Fischer-Lempke
Pat Snyder
Cindy Fisher

Mark Schultz
Pat Compton
Sue Spitzer

Members Not Present:

Barry Long
Connie Cooper
Brendan Bishop
Mark Intermill
Mike Schafer

State Staff Present:

Cindy Kadavy – DHHS
Kay Wenzl – DHHS
Chad Frank – DHHS
Hope Whitaker – DHHS

Stacey Brunner – DHHS
Lara Huskey – DED
Deanna Jesse – NCBVI
Ginger Goomis – DHHS

Leslie Novacek – ATP
Bil Roby – DHHS
Debbie Lewis – DHHS

Call to Order

Bil Roby, Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, August 25, 2008 in the conference room of the Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel, 5353 N 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

The meeting began with a welcome, an invitation to members of the public to sign the Public Comment Sheet if they wished to speak, and a reference to observance of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Publication of the meeting time, date, agenda, and location was duly noted on the Public Calendar of the State of Nebraska official government website.

Introductions of panel members, state staff, and members of the public followed.

Bil requested a motion for approval of the agenda; Mary Angus moved and Rich Brandow seconded. Discussion turned to the minutes for the meeting. Corrections to the minutes were accepted: Deanna Jesse represents the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, not the Department of Health and Human Services. Bil requested a

Introduction / Welcome (cont.)

motion for approval of the minutes; Rich Brandow moved and Mike Hon seconded approval.

Panel members and state staff were reminded to sign-in at each meeting to maintain accurate documentation of attendance.

Bil related that additional topics that were not noted on the agenda needed to be discussed. It was suggested that the items be added to the agenda. Bil stated that a revised agenda would be distributed to the panel members.

Agenda Updates:

NMFP Protocol – Approved June 20, 2008. Copies of the protocol were made available to the Advisory Panel. Mark Schultz asked for an explanation as to the difference between the original application and the approved NMFP protocol. Bil explained the goals of each remained much the same; however, the emphasis of the protocol as it is now written rests on the program’s efforts to provide outreach, to define and resolve barriers to home-and-community-based placement, and to explore approaches such as telehealth to increase opportunities for successful placement in community-based settings.

Transition Coordinator Presentations / Transitions – Total presentations: 87
Total transitions: 6
Total transitions in process: 23

Figures represent outreach efforts and transition activity from July through August 2008. Bil stated posters and brochures are now available to aid in promotion of waiver services. Questions regarding completed transitions – origination of transition, placement, and target population category – were answered: completed transitions came from BSDC; placement for those individuals was within a group home of four or less individuals; in the future, individuals would be categorized as to NMFP’s target populations.

Housing Issues – Pat Compton inquired about housing and barriers. The Transition Coordinators related that resources, family/guardian support, modifications, funding, transportation, and distance in rural areas were significant barriers. Bil stated that housing issues would hopefully be addressed through subcommittee action.

Assisted Living – Bil related that transitioning to an Assisted Living setting is still an option. Transition Coordinators continue to work with participants who wish to transition to an AL completing all NMFP paperwork and Quality of Life surveys. Bil remarked that discussions are still on-going; draft proposals to CMS to allow AL’s as a qualified residence are under consideration; further examination of CMS’ “aging-in-place” provision will take place. The complexity of the issue was highlighted with the following topics broached: CMS’ concern with Nebraska’s regulations regarding AL discharge of residents with significant level of care needs; and possible discriminatory issues if Assisted Living facilities are prohibited from

Agenda Updates (*Assisted Living cont.*)

discharging residents while commercial landlords have the freedom to reject, refuse to renew, or cancel lease agreements.

NMFP Staff Training – Staff attended Traumatic Brain Injury training at Madonna Rehabilitation Center; attended several training sessions conducted by advocacy groups and state organizations; are currently completing Aged and Disabled Waiver training; and will seek to accompany a Service Coordinator during screening assessment to obtain a more complete view of the transition process. Bil explained that staff training is a protocol requirement. Cindy Fisher inquired about the general nature of the TBI training; NMFP staff replied that overall it was informative and constructive. Bil asked the panel to keep him advised of any training prospects or ideas for the future.

Behavioral Health – Bil asked for feedback on behavioral health issues and services. Jerry Campbell replied that lack of BH services outside of the metropolitan areas was a concern. Pat Snyder agreed and noted that statewide, Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings had the best support services, providing behavioral health teams to support providers. Discussion ranged over the following topics:

- short-lived community-placement due to lack of BH services
- services provision; duplication of waivers permitted or not
- Medicaid and BH funding streams
- identification of specific BH services needed
- training/education for providers
- BH Regional Housing Coordinators (it was noted by panel members that the primary staff contact would be Jim Harvey)
- employment assistance
- psychiatric evaluations
- no specialization by the behavioral health community for the developmentally disabled population
- reason why individuals with BH issues not a NMFP target population - mental health waivers weren't available at time of project development

Mark Schultz summarized that there is a need for more trained, qualified supportive staff and more qualified providers who could work across the board as well as across the state to address BH issues and deliver BH services. Mary Angus noted BH staff changes impact the panel's ability to understand mental health issues; Mark added a BH presentation is still desired. It was concluded that a coordinated approach is required; communication between DHHS divisions and waivers services is needed; and utilization/crossover of multiple waivers for a single individual would be more effective. Pat Compton added that regulations and the complex nature of waivers prevent progress. She further added that previous attempts at reforming the system were all ineffective. Bil replied that

Agenda Updates (*Behavioral Health cont.*)

regulations can be modified and the system can adapt, but it will take time and the combined efforts of everyone.

Website Overview – A brief demonstration of the NMFP website was conducted. Panel members were asked to note or reaffirm that the organizations, agencies, or associations that they represent could be hyperlinked within the NMFP website.

New Panel Member Welcomed – Pat Compton replaces Lara Huskey as a NMFP panel member. Pat brings the same level of housing expertise to the panel that Lara provided; however, Lara stated Pat also has specific experience with special needs housing which will be of assistance to the NMFP program as it is implemented.

Posters – Bil briefly described NMFP posters and brochures, Spanish-language versions (and requests, if needed, for other languages), and encouraged all panel members to take a poster with them after the meeting.

Telehealth – Bil discussed the number of telehealth presentations conducted thus far and the possibility of having future presentations conducted at Advisory Panel meetings. He related that telehealth is one of the benchmarks of the NMFP protocol and as such, progress must be made to the achievement of those benchmarks. Bil explained that NMFP's progress towards its goals is being charted; he will provide more information at the next meeting.

MFP Grantee Training Calls – Bil explained that CMS and Ascellon provide periodic teleconference and/or webinars. The teleconferences cover a wide range of topics; panel members are contacted if the conference topic is within their specialty or sphere of interest.

Ascellon – Bil explained that CMS has contracted with Ascellon to provide technical assistance in a variety of areas. He also noted that the company could provide assistance to the NMFP panel through teleconferences or visits.

Pat Snyder / Ron Jensen – Bil thanked Pat and Ron for sending out notices to their organizations on behalf of NMFP. He also noted that an approved newsletter insert which briefly describes the NMFP project is available for panel members and their organizations/associations to publish.

Miscellaneous – Connect NMFP news article (general remarks), food and beverage service (quantity), and copies (bring).

Nursing Facilities – Bil mentioned that two Nursing Facilities expressed interest in providing in-home services in the community. Bil stated he will give this information to NHCA. Pat Snyder explained that facilities interested in this avenue would need to apply for a license and that consultants were available to walk them through the process of obtaining the license.

Determination of Subcommittees and Appointments

Bil referred to the agenda's possible list of subcommittees and explained that Assisted Living and Service Area Maps were considered on-going working groups with individuals presently involved in providing solutions. In answer to Marla Fischer-Lemke's question, Bil replied that the list was not exhaustive. Bil briefly discussed his ideas and objectives for this meeting: a limited number of subcommittees; form new committees in the following years if needed; decisions on subcommittees should be panel member-driven. Specific areas discussed:

Transportation – Rich Brandow related that two committees currently exist within the state that addresses transportation issues. He and other members of the NMFP Advisory Panel serve on one of the committees. Discussion covered a wide range of transportation related issues such as public versus personal vehicles, accessibility of younger participants to private vehicles, adaptations to vehicles owned by others, Kearney's RYDE (Reach Your Destination Easily), Metropolitan Planning Agency, federal grants / state grants, and coordination of efforts.

Employment – Marla Fischer-Lempke suggested employment as an option for a sub-committee. Discussion included Ticket to Work, tax incentives, competitive employment opportunities (outside of workshop situations), one-on-one employment and the supports necessary to maintain that type of employment relationship, Voc Rehab and Developmental Disabilities collaboration, and Goodwill Industries.

Daytime Services – Paul Maginn asked to include employment for those who no longer work under daytime services. Bil replied that daytime services are very important in regards to socialization. It was remarked that sometimes, however, volunteer activities were relegated to individuals who actually can be employed. Paul stated that the median age for individuals attending adult day services is in the mid-seventies. Cindy Fisher remarked upon the scarce availability of daytime services in remote areas and associated transportation issues. Deanna Jesse and Mary Angus stated that daily activities can include habilitation and rehabilitation activities.

Brief discussions centered on Telehealth and more specifically, Behavioral Health as it pertains to education and training to support providers who work with individuals with behavioral health issues.

Housing – NMFP Transition Coordinators agreed that housing was a critical issue with transitioning. Transition Coordinator experiences thus far point to housing as the most significant barrier: availability, funding, transportation during the move, which individual is tasked or responsible for finding housing, and the coordination of waiver approval and services as the search for housing takes place.

General discussion ensued with Pat Compton remarking that services need to be in place to make housing selection and transitions successful. Lara Huskey stated that housing and transportation issues tend to be tied together and that parallel conversations should exist

Determination of Subcommittees and Appointments (cont.)

between subcommittees which cover these areas. Further remarks centered on the necessity of coordinating all transition pieces (housing, transportation, services, and providers); and that remote areas lacked dependable or experienced providers.

Bil asked if the following areas were suitable subcommittee topics: transportation, housing, and service availability. There was general agreement about the selection of the subject areas and a desire to appoint chairs and members at this month's meeting to facilitate action on the issues. The following subcommittees, chairs, and members were decided upon:

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	
Housing	Mark Schultz	Mike Hon Barry Long *	Pat Compton Chad Frank (TC)
Transportation	Rich Brandow	Paul Maginn Cindy Fisher	Mark Intermill * Hope Whitaker (TC)
Service Availability	Mary Angus	Jerry Campbell Pat Snyder Marla Fischer-Lempke	Sue Spitzer Stacey Brunner (TC)

* Barry Long and Mark Intermill were appointed to their respective committees due to their experience or sphere of interest as well as service on comparable committees outside of NMFP.

Remaining committee members will be asked for their preference of subcommittee. The panel was reminded that if outside experts / specialists were relied upon, their assistance would be temporary and directed solely at contributing to the work of the subcommittee. It was suggested that the Chairs of each subcommittee arrange with their members to setup teleconferences to avoid unnecessary travel.

Public Comment

Bil invited members of the public to speak:

Frank Velinsky of Caretech, Inc. spoke in regards to the critical importance of behavioral health issues as they relate to successful transitions and placement in the community and advocated for the combined efforts of all to channel special needs individuals to success.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 27, 9:00am-12:00pm

There was no further comment. Bil thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 12:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lewis
NMFP Staff Assistant