

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting August 31, 2009

Members Present:

Connie Cooper	Paul Maginn
Marla Fischer-Lempke	Mark Schultz
Pat Compton	Mike Schaefer
Sue Spitzer	Pat Snyder
Kerry Michael	Mary Angus

Members Represented:

Mark Intermil – represented by Bob Courtney (AARP)
Brendan Bishop – represented by Kathi Schildt (NAHCHA)

Members Not Present:

Rich Brandow	Mike Hon
Cindy Fisher	Jerry Campbell

State Staff Present:

Cindy Kadavy – DHHS	Bil Roby – DHHS	Mary Gordon – Public Health
Chad Frank – DHHS	Debbie Lewis – DHHS	Shari Bahensky – CAP
Stacey Brunner – DHHS	Lauren Rock – ATP	Deanna Jesse – NCBVI
Hope Whitaker – DHHS		

Call to Order

Bil Roby, Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 10:07am, August 31st, 2009 in the conference room of Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

The meeting began with an acknowledgement of the Open Meetings Act and reference to the Public Comment Sheet for those of the public who wished to speak. Bil reminded 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 and the meeting date, time, and place is posted on the Public Calendar of the State of Nebraska official government website.

Introduction / Welcome (cont.)

Bil requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the last meeting; Mike Schaefer moved and Mary Angus seconded. The minutes of the February 27th, 2009 meeting were accepted without changes. A motion to adopt the agenda was called for; Kerry Michael moved for approval; Mary Angus seconded.

Agenda Updates:

MFP National Conference – October 26 - 28, 2009 – Bil explained the upcoming MFP conference is centered on intensive training for MFP directors. The three day program takes place during the next regularly scheduled Advisory Panel meeting; the next AP meeting date has been moved to November 2, 2009. The time and venue remain the same.

Public Service Announcement (PSA's)/ Filler Ads – NMFP and housing.ne.gov website PSA's and filler ads have been finalized and distributed to radio stations and newspapers. The PSA's and the ads are available to be heard and/or to be read on NMFP's website. The website address for NMFP has been changed to: www.dhhs.ne.gov/moneyfollowstheperson. Individuals using the previous website address are re-directed to the new address. Bil provided an explanation of the usefulness of the housing.gov website. Calls to radio stations and newspapers will be made in the near future to encourage the use of the ads.

Database Update – The database is fully operational as of the beginning of July. All client and outreach data have been inputted. The system is a web-based, real-time application and is fully relied upon for a variety of federal and internal reports as well as up-to-date client information. Two reports – the Transition Activity Report and the Outreach / Presentations Report – are currently being redesigned to better reflect the data presented.

Transition / Outreach Activity – Figures for transition and outreach activity were provided verbally as the design of the reports is still under development. It was further explained as the database offers more flexibility; different categories of transitioned individuals can be provided. As handouts for transition activity and outreach were not available to the panel; it was decided the information would be sent as attachments via email to the panel members.

<u>Total Transitions:</u>	57
<u>Total Transitions in Process:</u>	46
<u>Total Not Transitioned</u>	107
<u>Total Presentations:</u>	140

Figures represent outreach efforts and transitions from the start of the program through August 2009.

Web-Based Report – The required NMFP semi-annual web-based report, due on September 10, is currently near completion and will be submitted on time. Bil briefly mentioned the success of the last report as reflected in a follow-up CMS conference. Bil noted in the CMS-required web-based reporting,

Agenda Updates (cont.)

figures for “not transitioned” are overlooked. He explained the number is significant as it reveals transitions are not always possible for many who desire to move to a residential setting. Bil conveyed this discrepancy to CMS who noted the observation was valid and would be taken under consideration.

Housing Technical Assistance (TA) – CMS arranged for housing TA to be presented by Ann Denton of Advocates for Human Potential on July 13 in Lincoln. NMFP staff as well as staff from other units, departments, and the Centers for Independent Living attended. A highlight of the training was Ann’s explanation and directions regarding the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) recent notification that 1000 MFP-specific housing vouchers are to be issued. Bil noted the process of obtaining vouchers was complicated and stated he would meet with housing sub-committee members after the meeting to discuss the issue. Pat Compton suggested a concerted effort by like-minded groups within the state to direct official attention towards the need for more vouchers, in rural areas as well as in urban areas. Mike Schaffer agreed and noted groups working apart have less impact. Kerry Michael also agreed but noted that increasing the number of vouchers is difficult and explained various factors – the history of HUD decision-making, money availability, populations, etc. – affected voucher awards. Kerry also noted that Nebraska is actively engaged on a number of fronts, through NAHRO, lobbying efforts, and representation to national conferences to obtain additional vouchers.

Direct Service Workers Technical Assistance (TA) – Bil explained that discussion for TA as it relates to recruiting and retaining direct service workers is still on-going. Bil also informed the panel about the availability of Find, Choose, and Keep manuals – written for individuals and families – which detail how to recruit and how to establish working relationships with services workers. Website addresses for Advocates for Human Potential (housing), the National Direct Service Workforce Resource Center (service workers), and the manual will be sent to the Advisory Panel.

Guest Speakers – The Bunde Family

Bil introduced members of the Bunde Family to the Advisory Panel, explaining that he had an opportunity to meet with this positive and independent-minded family through the suggestion of Mary Angus.

Susan and Rod Bunde began the presentation with their personal experience as parents and care-givers of adult children with Neuroaxonal Dystrophy. They related experiences with doctors, school systems, nursing facilities, ICF-MRs, and service workers and the barriers and skepticism encountered with each. The Bunde Family persevered, overcoming each hurdle to help ensure that the desire of Belinda and Bryon to pursue a normal life and secure an independent living arrangement was fulfilled. Susan stressed that changing staff as well as staff not understanding or following proper procedures is an on-going problem. Consistency of care for physical and health needs and following a

Guest Speakers (cont.)

routine is vitally important for Belinda and Byron; it is essential providers follow directions. Clear communication between care-givers and the Bunde Family is emphasized. Belinda and Byron's goal is to move to an independent setting in Omaha to be nearer to family and friends. Susan concluded by acknowledging the positives: Belinda and Byron are together, the assistance and services of Region V and others is appreciated, they can go out together, and they are living life as independently as possible.

Belinda (Bodacious B) spoke personally about her accomplishments and achievements. She is recognized internationally for being a presenter in the field of Developmental Disabilities, with numerous trips to the annual international gathering for The Learning Community Person-Centered Practices conferences in Portland, Oregon, as well as conferences in the Midwest. Belinda is an Essential Lifestyle Planning mentor and consultant and also a member of several local councils. She is a determined self-advocate as well as an active advocate for others with disabilities. Belinda is presently expanding her business to train other self-advocates to improve their quality of life by creating unique newsletters about themselves. The newsletters are colorful and newsworthy, provide staff and volunteers with essential details about the writer/self-advocate, and lend control to the self-advocate. Belinda writes poetry, is computer savvy, considers those with disabilities handi-capable, and is determined to continue to help others become self-advocates.

Panel Questions – Panel questions covered early and timely access to services (access was initially difficult and medical conditions were considered “orphan diseases”); medically fragile individuals living independently (times have changed and the choice to live independently is supported more); what can the community do to make things easier (knowledgeable, experienced, caring doctors are needed, suitable set-up to living arrangement, and access to transportation); and how do Belinda and Byron communicate with one another (a life-time of knowing each other). Bil concluded the special presentation by the Bunde Family acknowledging Belinda's tenacious advocacy on behalf of herself, her brother, and many others. He further noted the resiliency and courage of Susan and Rod Bunde for seeking and for allowing an independent life-style for their children. Panel and staff members expressed their thanks and appreciation in having the Bunde Family speak about their experiences and for speaking on behalf of those who choose to live independently.

Open Discussion – The next Advisory Panel meeting will be held on November 2, 2009. NMFP table tents, which further promote home-and-community-based services and the assistance of NMFP, will be available at the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Bil thanked everyone for attending. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Shaffer and was seconded by Mary Angus. The meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lewis
NMFP Staff Assistant