

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting October 25, 2010

Members Present:

Pat Compton
Mary Angus
Patty Pierson
Mike Schafer
Cindy Fisher

Rich Brandow
Connie Cooper
Paul Maginn
Heath Boddy
Marla Fischer-Lempke

Mark Schultz
Jerry Campbell
Jamie Summerfelt

Members Represented

Mike Hon (Todd Schuiteman – Quality Living, Inc.)

Members Not Present:

Lori Harder

Mark Intermill

Kerry Michael

State Staff Present:

Chad Frank – DHHS
Stacey Brunner – DHHS
Jade Lutes – DHHS
Kay Wenzl – DHHS

Cindy Kadavy – DHHS
Hope Whitaker-Blackmore – DHHS
Pattie Flury – DHHS

Call to Order

Chad Frank, Interim Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 10:02am, October 25, 2010 in the conference room of Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

Chad explained that the Advisory Panel meeting time was changed to 10 am to noon, based on the proposed meeting content. Chad introduced and welcomed Jade Lutes, the new Staff Assistant for Money Follows the Person. As a quorum was present; there was a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from February 22, April 26, and June 28, 2010, which was seconded by Richard Brandow. All voted in favor.

Updates:

Transition Activity / Outreach Report – Chad reviewed the report data.

Patty Pierson inquired as to the number of individuals with a Developmental Disability (DD) who have been served under the Aged and Disabled Waiver. The answer was one individual. Mark Schultz inquired about the MFP partnership visits to nursing home residents with the Independent Living Advisors. Chad replied that the partnership has been helpful, but that the visits are being evaluated to determine if this is the best use of time and resources. This was followed by a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of these visits.

Paul Maginn asked if the AARP article that stated MFP is trying to move 900 people out of nursing homes was correct. Chad explained that Nebraska has not modified their target transition numbers at this point in time. CMS offers States an opportunity to make modifications to these goals in January 2011, but at this point MFP is focused on transitioning as many as possible. Cindy Kadavy added that 900 is the total transition number and includes people moving from nursing facilities and ICF/.

Paul Maginn also asked if MFP had received any clarification on Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) as MFP Qualified Community Residences. Chad Frank replied that MFP has been speaking with Kansas regarding their strategy for obtaining CMS approval of ALFs. Kansas created a document that identified the CMS criteria for MFP Qualified Community Residences and below each requirement listed the Kansas ALF licensure requirements that indicated ALF met these requirements. Chad added that Nebraska MFP has drafted a similar document. This document will be reviewed by Licensure staff and discussed with ALF providers and associations. If CMS approves Nebraska's ALFs as MFP Qualified Community Residences, this would allow Medicaid to receive an enhanced federal match for individuals who choose this community-based option. Chad noted that Kansas hasn't had a huge amount of transitions to ALFs at this time.

Heath Boddy inquired about the physical building requirements. Chad and Cindy explained that to qualify as MFP Qualified Community Residences, DD group homes cannot have more than 4 residents. However, if an ALF meets the MFP criteria, it would be considered an 'apartment.' The individual apartment could not house more than 4 individuals, but each apartment in the building would be considered an individual residence. There was further discussion on the physical requirements for an 'apartment. Mary Angus indicated that ADAPT objects to the use of assisted living facilities as qualified community residence.

Statewide Media Campaign – Chad explained that Nebraska received CMS approval of 100% federal match for spending up to \$160,000 on a statewide media campaign. He is currently developing a Request for Proposals for this campaign. Chad said he is working with DHHS Communications staff to develop 2 MFP scripts for television ads – one from the perspective of a family that supported the transition of an elderly relative and one from the perspective of a younger resident who transitioned to his own home. Copies of the MFP print ad were shared with Panel members. Discussion followed. Cindy Fisher asked if the print ad could be modified in size or be more targeted toward an individual with a

TBI. Staff will email copies of the print ad that can be customized to various sizes. Cindy Fisher will provide suggestions on tailoring content for the TBI population. Discussion,

Housing – HUD/CMS Housing Choice Vouchers – Chad explained that the announcement of these awards will occur in October. Various Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have indicated their willingness to meet with MFP to discuss reserving vouchers for MFP clients, should they receive an award. Discussion followed.

Aged and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) – Cindy Kadavy gave an overview of the change in the nursing home resident assessment tool (MDS 3.0) that went into effect October 1, 2010. DHHS was awarded a grant to create an ADRC web portal that will allow nursing homes to submit electronic referrals for residents who wish to talk with someone about transitioning to community services. MFP will be working together with community agencies to follow-up on these referrals. Discussion followed.

Pat Compton inquired as to how an individual with Alzheimer's fits in to the NMFP program. Stacey Brunner replied that as long as a safe plan can be developed for the person, they may be able to be served under waiver services.

Senior Care Options (SCO) – Chad explained a new partnership with SCO that will allow referrals to MFP of residents aged 65 years or older, who were initially identified by SCO staff as needing only a brief nursing home stay. The process for following up on these referrals is being developed. Discussion followed.

Agenda Discussion:

Advisory Panel Attendance report – Chad reviewed the attendance record of Panel members, asking for comments on the length, frequency and structure of meetings. Discussion followed. Mike Schafer supported the new, shorter meeting time. He also asked if there is a requirement to meet 6 times per year. The answer was no. Pat Compton suggested quarterly meetings.

Cindy Fischer stated that if the meetings were later in the day she could drive out and back home all in one day, but she was okay with morning meetings, as she travels to Lincoln the night before. She added that as this may be the last year of the MFP project, it might be better to meet more often. Mary Angus supported keeping the meetings the same.

Mike Schafer said we shouldn't be meeting just to be meeting.

Cindy Kadavy gave a historical explanation of the Advisory Panel, the original focus was to connect with various populations and providers and to think outside the box in resolving barriers to transitions. She asked if there was a better way to accomplish this? A different format or frequency of meetings that might work better?

Mike Schafer suggested developing a method for communicating between meetings.

Jamie Summerfelt suggested the Advisory Panel can help us brainstorm ways around the transition obstacles.

Chad Frank proposed spending more meeting time on transition challenges.

Marla Fischer-Lempke inquired as to whether or not the grant will be renewed after September 30, 2011. Cindy Kadavy replied that decision hasn't been made yet, but that additional progress towards our benchmarks would help.

Mark Schulz inquired how Nebraska is doing on meeting our benchmarks in comparison with other states. Chad said many states are struggling.

Cindy Kadavy said MFP will send a Survey Monkey questionnaire to Panel members to get feedback on Advisory Panel meetings..

Stacey Brunner said the Advisory Panel has been very helpful on addressing challenges.

Mike Schafer suggested the Transition Coordinators contact Panel members to help with difficulties outside of the meeting time..

Pat Compton would like NMFP to contact her with housing issues.

Cindy said MFP will send a questionnaire to each Panel member, asking them to identify how they might be able to serve as resources (e.g. areas, topics).

NMFP success stories:

- Hope Whitaker-Blackmore discussed a person who had a significant number of health challenges, but was able to successfully transition home and is doing well.
- Stacey Brunner discussed a person with a TBI, who initially struggled to find providers but has been home 1 ½ years now and is doing well.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule – Chad presented tentative schedule and pointed out the April meeting follows a holiday.

Mary Angus suggested a conference call option for the December meeting particularly because of weather. Chad Frank said he would look into this option. Discussion of the advantages/disadvantages of phone conferencing followed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jade Lutes
NMFP Staff Assistant