

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting November 2, 2009

Members Present:

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| Marla Fischer-Lempke | Joyce Werner |
| Kerry Michael | Kathi Schildt |
| Paul Maginn | Rich Brandow |
| Mike Schaefer | Mike Hon |
| Mary Angus | |

Members Represented:

Pat Snyder – represented by Brendon Polt (NHCA)

Members Not Present:

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| Connie Cooper | Mark Intermil |
| Mark Schultz | Jerry Campbell |
| Cindy Fisher | Pat Compton |

State Staff Present:

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| Cindy Kadavy – DHHS | Bil Roby – DHHS | Shari Bahensky – CAP |
| Chad Frank – DHHS | Debbie Lewis – DHHS | |
| Stacey Brunner – DHHS | Kay Wenzl - DHHS | |

Call to Order

Bil Roby, Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 10:04am, November 2nd, 2009 in the conference room of Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

The meeting began with a reference to the Open Meetings Act and a request for members of the public to sign the Public Comment Sheet if they 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. The meeting date, time, and place are posted on the Public Calendar of the State of Nebraska official government website.

The following change to the agenda was adopted: the sub-committee breakout session scheduled for 12:30pm was changed to a "Transition Brain-storming" session. Mary Angus moved to accept the change; Kerry Michael seconded. Bil requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the last meeting; Mike Schafer moved and Rich Brandow seconded. The minutes of the August 31st, 2009 meeting were accepted without changes.

Agenda Updates:

New Panel Member – Joyce Werner, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), will represent the developmentally disabled community, focusing in particular on home-and-community-based issues and transition matters. Sue Spitzer, our former DD representative, resigned due to a recent change in position responsibilities.

Direct Service Workers – Technical assistance offered through CMS is still in the discussion process. NMFP and DHHS staff are working with the Direct Services Workers (DSW) Resource Center to develop technical assistance related to recruitment and retention of direct service workers. Possible options for assistance range from "train-the-trainer" sessions utilizing the Find, Keep, and Choose manuals to online training seminars.

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Annual Meeting – Bil co-presented with Lauren Rock of Assistive Technology Project on NMFP, transitioning, and Nebraska's housing website. The presentation was well-received; information on transitioning and housing barriers was exchanged; and questions regarding the transition process and the housing website were answered. A presenter from CMS to the annual meeting presented information regarding MFP-specific housing vouchers contained in the Notice of Funding Availability through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Project Director's Meeting – Bil related that the conference was a positive experience with states speaking candidly about issues which confront their programs. The last day of the conference consisted of an open discussion in which states provided details of their struggles to transition individuals, their program successes, and their thoughts regarding CMS policy and guidance. CMS noted the concerns of the states and promised an official response to concerns within the next two months. Brendon Polt inquired how budget issues affect MFP programs; Bil replied that travel and outreach tend to be impacted. Brendon also asked whether substantive policy changes would be made to the program as a result of the dialogue. Bil answered that the program is governed by regulation and any potential changes would be reflective of public law. Paul Maginn asked whether Assisted Living as a qualified residence was addressed; Bil stated that MFP states are unanimous about CMS Assisted Living restrictions – and the difficulty implementing them. CMS noted these concerns would be addressed, also.

Agenda Updates (cont.)

Public Service Announcements (PSA's) – Bil discussed outreach efforts to further publicize NMFP and home-and-community-based services. Table tents were provided to panel members to take with them to place in offices or reception areas of businesses, organizations, doctor's offices, etc. Radio PSA's are now being aired on a variety of stations statewide.

Web-based Report – A MFP semi-annual report that is required by CMS was completed and submitted on time. A review of the report by the Project Officer found no significant discrepancies and no substantive changes.

Quarterly and Annual Reports – Required quarterly financial reports and the annual budget report due October 30, 2009 were completed and submitted on time.

Transition / Outreach Activity – New reports detailing figures for year-to-date transition activity were reviewed. Discussion ensued as to the validity of the report, whether the reports effectively presented transition activity as it occurs, whether the figures were duplicated or not, and whether real-time data reports capture true transition history. Additional remarks concerned the definition of de-institutionalization and accurate titles for transitions from and to urban and rural settings. A decision was reached to re-examine the Transition Activity Summary Report and determine if an alternative report could be designed. Transition figures below represent a real-time, unduplicated count of all individuals transitioned under NMFP to-date. Transitions to Assisted Living facilities are not included.

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| <u>Total Transitions:</u> | 53 |
| <u>Total Presentations:</u> | 227 |

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

Home Again Funds – Home Again regulations are currently in the second round of review at the Governor's Policy Research Office. An estimated time-frame of a few weeks for final approval and the signature of the Governor is expected. Questions regarding sufficient funding for the program were raised; it was noted that all items within the state budget potentially are under consideration for cuts but that Home Again funding had not been specifically raised. Further discussion concerned past cuts to Medicaid funding, the potential for further cuts, and the consequences of decreases in services as a result of such cuts.

One-to-One Contact – Bil described a new approach to providing outreach to individuals residing in nursing facilities as an additional effort to increase transitions. NMFP staff members will now enter nursing facilities, make contact with the administrator or Director of Nursing, and walk through the facility to offer information to Medicaid recipients, on a one-to-one basis, of the availability of home-and-community-based services and the alternative of living independently in the community. Bil stated appointments with the facilities would not be made in advance of visits; however NMFP staff would be cognizant of facility surveys, flu outbreaks, etc. Bil further stated facility staff are welcome to accompany NMFP staff; NMFP staff are

Agenda Updates (cont.)

mindful of guardianship / power-of-attorney issues; and the intent of the approach is to provide useful information to those individuals with an interest in residing in a community-based setting. A brief discussion on the usefulness of the Minimum Data Set run and working with facility staff followed.

Open Discussion – Bil put forth an agenda format for the next Advisory Panel meeting (or alternatively, the first meeting of 2010) to have a “brain-storming” session in which panel members could offer ideas and suggestions to further promote awareness of the program and to increase transitions. Important news and any updates would still be shared with the panel; however, the predominant topic would be new ideas and concepts to increase NMFP / HCBS awareness and transitions to the community. Bil discussed having a moderator which would allow NMFP staff to join with panel members to present ideas as a group. Mary Angus suggested, as an additional idea, utilizing existing list serves within the department to broaden awareness of the program.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule – The next Advisory Panel meeting will be held on December 14, 2009. Meetings scheduled for 2010 will be held every-other-month, beginning in February, on the fourth Monday of the month. A meeting schedule for next year will be prepared and sent to panel members.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Bil asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. He explained that the remainder of the meeting would enter into a closed session to discuss current caseloads and barriers to transition. Members of the public were asked to leave for this portion of the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting for a closed session was made by Mary Angus. Mike Hon seconded the motion.

Closed Session

Discussion of unspecified cases, barriers to transition, and Advisory Panel member suggestions and feedback comprised the remainder of the meeting.

Bil requested a motion to adjourn the closed session. Mike Hon moved to adjourn; Rich Brandow seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lewis
NMFP Staff Assistant