

Nebraska Money Follows the Person Advisory Panel Meeting December 8, 2008

Members Present:

Paul Maginn	Mark Intermill	Brendan Bishop
Jerry Campbell	Marla Fischer-Lempke	Connie Cooper
Cindy Fisher	Sue Spitzer	
Mary Angus	Mike Schafer	

Members Represented

Pat Snyder (Brendon Polt – Nebraska Health Care Association)

Members Not Present:

Barry Long	Mark Schultz
Mike Hon	Rich Brandow
Pat Snyder	Pat Compton

State Staff Present:

Cindy Kadavy – DHHS	Deanna Jesse – NCBVI	Victoria Rasmussen – Client Assistance Program (CAP)
Chad Frank – DHHS	Kay Wenzl – DHHS	
Stacey Brunner – DHHS	Bil Roby – DHHS	
Hope Whitaker – DHHS	Debbie Lewis – DHHS	

Call to Order

Bil Roby, Grant Manager of NMFP, called the meeting to order at 10:05am, December 8, 2008 in the conference room of the AmericInn Hotel, 6555 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Introduction / Welcome

Members of the public were asked to sign the Public Comment Sheet if they wished to speak and to hold comments until the public comment period at the end of the meeting. State staff were introduced; DHHS staff are present to support the project and to be available to answer questions posed by the Advisory Panel or members of the Public. Publication of the meeting time, date, agenda, and location was duly noted on the Public Calendar of the State of Nebraska official government website and the NMFP website.

Introductions of panel members and state staff followed. Bil requested a motion for approval of the agenda; Jerry Campbell moved and Mark Intermill seconded. A motion to adopt the minutes of the last meeting was called for; Connie Cooper moved for approval; Jerry Campbell seconded. The minutes of the October 27th meeting were accepted without changes.

Agenda Updates:

NMFP Advisory Panel Meeting Times – Meetings are scheduled to occur on the last Monday of every-other-month, 10:00am – 1:30pm, at Staybridge Suites, beginning February 23, 2008.

Assisted Living – NMFP continues to work with CMS to allow the use of Assisted Living (AL) facilities as a qualified residence under the project. General Counsel for CMS is currently reviewing the issue. Bil reiterated that individuals transitioned to Assisted Living under the project are currently considered NMFP participants; the state does not, at this time, receive an enhanced match for these types of transitions. Connie Cooper inquired if there was a timeframe for an answer from CMS. Bil replied that correspondence with CMS regarding the issue was initiated three weeks ago; he is waiting for a response. Mary Angus stated that ADAPT of Nebraska does not support transitioning to Assisted Living facilities.

Transition Coordinator Presentations / Transitions –

Total presentations:	135
Total transitions:	13
Total transitions in process:	48

Figures represent outreach efforts and transitions through October 2008. An explanation and breakdown of the figures followed. Mary Angus inquired what reasons specifically constituted ineligibility or denial for the program. Reasons for denial or ineligibility were provided: lack of a safety plan, early transitions, not currently residing in a facility, or potential participants declined services. Brendan Bishop inquired whether we have reports which track or reflect monies expended for each population group. Bil replied that our system has the capability to track monies expended by population group under NMFP. All reports, both those required by CMS and those prepared for NMFP purposes, will be made available to the Advisory Panel.

Panel Information Sheets – Panel information sheets were noted as updated and included as a handout to Advisory Panel members.

Housing Technical Assistance – NMFP is currently waiting for a proposal from Ann Denton, Director of Housing for Advocates for Human Potential, to research methods or opportunities to improve the access and availability of housing for individuals transitioning to the community. In addition, Bil stated that NMFP is working with Assistive Technology to create a Public Service Announcement that would promote the NMFP project and the website housing.ne.gov.

Direct Service Work Force Technical Assistance (DSW) – Bil informed the panel that DSW will be providing assistance to Nebraska in regards to the recruitment and retention of direct services workers. As information on the nature or scope of the assistance becomes available, it will be presented to the panel. Kay Wenzl added that the Nebraska Resource and Referral System (NRRS), a statewide database constructed with input from Nebraska families, service providers and organizations is easily accessible, updated regularly, and available to individuals and families needing services across the state. Kay also suggested Answers for Families as another avenue for searching for providers. She added that the sites contain providers who deliver services through waiver as well as those who do not.

Presentation:

Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Presentation – Margaret Van Dyke, R.N. – Margaret presented information on how and which Medicaid services are provided when services are related to mental health and substance abuse concerns. In order for services to be approved, a primary psychiatric disorder must be diagnosed by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or licensed independent medical practitioner. Services include an assessment, individual, group, or family psychotherapy, and medication management. The services must be developmentally appropriate, family-centered, culturally sensitive, and conducted within the least restrictive level. An active treatment plan is necessary; the plan must include how the individual will benefit from treatment. Services are accessed through a managed care provider (Magellan – HCBS / Assisted Living clients) or fee-for-services (nursing facilities). Discussion touched upon a prospective Medicaid proposal to limit visits to 52 per year, authorization for and access to medical transportation for mental health appointments, and waiver regulations as they pertain to transportation.

Subcommittee Updates:

Schedule Proposal – Bil proposed a subcommittee meeting schedule in which one-hour planning break-outs would alternate with subcommittee updates to the Advisory Panel at the next meeting. Bil also emphasized the importance of the subcommittee planning to remain focused on the goals of NMFP, particularly the transitioning of 900 individuals from facilities into the community. He stated that some issues or recommendations that subcommittees broach or discuss are not within the scope of NMFP or lie outside the project's authorization.

Services Availability – Discussion centered upon gaps in services, dependable, reliable providers, and recruitment. Bil inquired whether a services map could be created which would help to visually depict gaps in services; Brendon Polt stated such a map would be viewed as an opportunity for the nursing facility industry to offer alternative care settings. Sue Spitzer noted a map may not accurately reflect where a provider delivers services as some providers may be based in one area but offer services elsewhere. Kay Wenzl mentioned that the Aged and Disabled waiver program has maps which depict, by county, providers, services, and consumers throughout the state. Kay added this is helpful to businesses interested in providing services within a specific location. Mike Schaffer added AD and DD providers are different. He further stated pay issues, recruitment, turnover, distances, too many providers, and who provides services (family members, for example) all contribute to the complexity of delivering services. Connie Cooper noted that providers are willing to deliver services across groups. Further discussion covered services provided by agencies vs. those by individuals: agencies may be more expensive; however, they are more experienced and backup service is available. Recruitment of service providers is performed by agency Resource Developers who run advertisements, conduct presentations, distribute flyers, attend college fairs, etc. Kay Wenzl noted that N-Focus can provide a list of providers; however, it will also include individuals who only provide for family or friends.

Subcommittee Updates: *Services Availability (cont.)*

Mary Angus inquired how the NMFP Services Availability Subcommittee could contribute to solving services issues. Discussion centered on the unevenness or imbalance in services, changing demographics of small towns, and provider lists which can only be updated on a yearly basis. Mary summarized that up-to-date provider lists and the recruitment and retaining of service workers – in certain areas – are challenging issues. Cindy Kadavy proposed returning to a services map that would identify the need for services in a particular county, noting the distinction between gaps in services and the actual need for services. Cindy Fisher stressed that a visual depiction would be very helpful because families are unfamiliar with providers, services, availability and location whereas agencies are familiar with this information. Bil mentioned that he could provide lists of providers for the next meeting and suggested in the meantime that the Transition Coordinators, AAA's, and CIL's provide a list, by county, of where they find it a challenge to find providers. Sue Spitzer stated it is important to define terms and roles in regards to providers and services and population served. Mike Schafer agreed and suggested finding a way to communicate, in easily understood language, what services providers actually offer to each population. Cindy Kadavy suggested that instead of using population and services received, it might be better to use waiver and services provided. Discussion turned briefly to unlicensed in-home services, licensed agencies, and what types and levels of service is available under each business model.

Housing – Bil reviewed the Housing Subcommittee summary submitted by committee members. He touched on the following areas:

- AAA's / CIL's operate differently in some respects – Transition Coordinators will confirm procedure with respective agencies
- Bil will attend the next Statewide Independent Living Council meeting
- Visiting and inspecting prospective housing – Ann Denton will provide TA which possibly will provide direction on how to assist those who wish to transition
- Home Again Funds (start-up money) – draft regulations are currently in the Governor's Policy Research Office and under review
- Accessing affordable, available housing – NMFP will await TA from Ann Denton to assist with ideas

Housing General Discussion

- Mike Schafer suggested that Housing Authority Directors statewide be requested to designate vouchers for those individuals transitioning under NMFP
- Cindy Kadavy recommended that data be available to support assertions that housing is not accessible or affordable
- Discussion ranged over how Housing Authorities prioritize their clients and whether this affects the population groups which NMFP supports
- HUD funding is subject to continuum of care requirement
- Bil and Cindy Kadavy will discuss involvement of Barry Long about contacting Housing Authorities in Nebraska

Subcommittee Updates (cont.)

Transportation – Hope Whitaker related that the Transportation Coalition Teleconference conducted statewide in November recommended setting up regional transportation committees to examine specific barriers for each area. Mark Intermill stated that a team from Nebraska attended a three-day training session at the Institute for Transportation Coordination (ITC). The team will present a plan to address transportation issues to Nebraska's Statewide Public Transportation Coalition. Mark further stated that the coalition desires to have regional systems in place to serve small towns and rural areas. Cindy Kadavy said that Rich Brandow found regulations that funding is available to pay a person to accompany and help an individual transitioning from a nursing facility to find housing. Further information in regards to the regulations will be provided to the panel. It was directed that the Transportation Subcommittee should review the contents of the report from the ITC training at the next subcommittee meeting and forward transportation suggestions to Bil and the panel.

Open Discussion:

Bil reminded the NMFP subcommittees the primary goal of the project is to transition individuals: suggestions can be considered and acted upon if it is within the project's scope and capacity.

Cindy Kadavy stated that Medicaid has put forth a Request for Proposal to obtain a statewide transportation broker. If this is approved, we would contract with an agency to coordinate transportation on a statewide basis, which possibly would address many of the issues the NMFP Transportation Subcommittee is discussing.

Public Comment:

Victoria Rasmussen, representing the Client Assistance Program and Hotline for Disabilities Services, stated that services are available through her programs' website (or by telephone) which allows clients to search by county to determine which agencies serve each county. Vicki welcomed opportunities to exchange and share information with NMFP to promote the services of both programs.

Paula Ritter-Gooder, representing the Nebraska Dietetic Association, stated that her association could assist in determining where gaps exist in providing nutritional services. Paula inquired who or what program provides nutritional services. Kay Wenzl replied that such services are available under Chore Services through the Aged and Disabled Waiver.

There was no further comment. Bil thanked everyone for attending and reminded the panel that the next meeting would be on February 23. Bil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:09pm. Mike Schafer moved and Mary Angus seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lewis
NMFP Staff Assistant