

Home and Community Based Services – Waiver Settings Transition Project
Advisory Taskforce Meeting
September 9, 2015 – 10am to 12 noon
UNH Institute on Disability, 56 Old Suncook Rd. Suite 2, Concord, NH
Minutes

Present: Linda Bimbo, Sue Orr, Darlene Cray, Mary St. Jacques, Lisa DiMartino, Rosemary Simoneau (NH Healthcare Assoc), Adrienne Mallinson, Ryan Donnelly, Kaarla Weston, Cindy Gaudreault, John Richards, Heather Hannafin, Deb Fournier, John Fenley, Cheryl Steinberg

Validation Site Visits:

- Chart that identifies the number and types of sites that we are doing validation on was distributed.
- We have 17 surveyors conducting on-site validations
- The number of Adult Family Services sites has changed because the two of the sites that were originally on the master list are no longer providing those services.
- Total of 33 sites assigned to be surveyed for CFI
- Total of 296 sites assigned to be surveyed for DD/ABD.
- Challenges on the CFI side: Lack of contact information or inaccurate information for the different sites. Contact info for some people who no longer work at that location. There are also a number of CFI sites that do not have email addresses – and it was necessary to look up site info on web to find phone number to contact those sites by phone. ARCH was contacted, and provided some assistance, but still not everyone is a member of that organization. A letter was sent to CFI sites to get contact information. This identifies a glitch in the process of updating contact information for certified sites. The Waiver Transition Team will include this issue in the recommendations for resolution in the report.
- Challenges on DD/ABD side: There have been issues with people not being responsive to the email that was sent. Generally this was because the contact was usually the executive director of the organization, who assumed someone else at the agency was responding. In response, the master list was changed to include the contact for certification for each organization. This helped tremendously. Some agencies were still not responding; however, once a conversation was had with them, they have been very responsive. Some agencies are still pushing back and are not responding well.
- The surveyors have been doing their very best to contact people, make appointments, and perform validation interviews.
- There have also been people who have refused to participate – both individuals and guardians. One participant-directed site has refused to participate. Sometimes it is just an individual who declines, which is their right, and other times an organization (provider) has declined which is a concern. The team is developing a plan of action to

determine the best way to address this. Any program that has not cooperated will be added to the additional scrutiny list to be reviewed later.

- Additionally, some sites have had a change in status (closed, individual has changed locations, etc.). The master list that is being used was generated in March, so the Team is still working on a list from that date. These changes were made between then and now.

Participant surveys:

- Current status: Original round had low numbers. The Team has reached out to some of the Community Participation Services sites, to ask them to support individuals to complete the participant survey. There are a lot of individuals who are served in the CPS settings and the hope is that a large number of those receiving services will complete the survey.
- The Team reached out to Darlene Cray at the Long Term Care Ombudsman's office for help in reaching out to more individuals receiving services through the Choices for Independence (CFI) waiver to complete additional participant surveys.
- Some of the language in the survey needed to be simplified, and made more understandable for the participants (acronyms, access to the refrigerator, etc.)
- We are currently at a little over 600 entered, with some written ones in house that still need to be entered, and more surveys being done.
- Will be using information from the National Core Indicator surveys that have been completed that will help us analyze the Participant Surveys.
- Learning opportunities: Understanding of the process of Providers in CFI and DD/ABD are different.

Regulatory review process by DHHS:

- Lists of CFI DD/ABD statutes and rules for the waivers were distributed to the group.
- These are currently being reviewed, to make preliminary determinations on what changes will need to be made to be in compliance with the new CMS requirements.
- Each of the statutes and rules needs to be reviewed individually. Not all of the rules will be touched by the new regulations.
- The Team will need to make recommendations as to how these issues will need to be addressed.
- Michelle Winchester did the initial review, but the DHHS attorneys will provide the final evaluation report, including suggested tasks and timelines for remediation.
- A question was asked about how these new regulations would be disseminated to the people receiving these services. The Bureau would put together documents, hold public sessions requesting comments/questions, etc. JLCAR already has a system in place to introduce new regulations to the public. Additionally, the State-wide Transition Plan will include the suggested changes, and there will be a public hearing/comment period associated with this.

Other Business:

- Kaarla attended the Home and Community Based Conference in Washington DC.
- 1250 participants
- They offered HCBS Settings Rule guidance sessions at which Kaarla learned that the information we have here in NH is in line with what she learned in these courses.
- They did not identify NH by state, but used our regional design system as the best model for service design.
- She spoke with folks from ND, which was the first state to be approached by CMS regarding the funding design. They shared a story about a home on the same site location of an institution. Four people, who were all formerly residents of the institution, lived and co-owned that home. ND was concerned that they were vulnerable, and asked CMS to come and review them; and CMS determined that this was a self-driven model, and they were not vulnerable.
- CMS also dropped by a Day Service while they were there. They determined that the folks were not getting out into the community as often as they should, and therefore determined that they were not considered to be Home and Community based.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 14, 2014, 10am – 12noon

NH Council on Developmental Disabilities

2 ½ Beacon Street, Suite 10

Concord, NH