

Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services
Department of Developmental Services

DRAFT Minutes for Task Force Chairs Conference Call 9:30 a.m.

January 21, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Daniel Klipper, Lois Rosenwald, Kathryn Reddington, Larry Wood, Laura Digalbo, Chera Gerstein, Jacqui Kelleher and Lori Conchado

The meeting began with introductions and greetings from each member.

Status of Task Forces:

Private Provider Task Force

Chair: Larry Wood

The task force has met several times and identified 3 major issues.

- 1.) Credentialing and Qualifications of staff
- 2.) Quality Monitoring and Quality Improvement
- 3.) Recruiting

The task force has focused most on #1 above. As of now, the task force suggests the following: Implement stricter qualifications for the approval of private providers; require each provider agency to have a person to develop programs and manage staff resources; recruit and train staff who demonstrate commitment and expertise to support the population; match staff appropriately to individual consumers and show a willingness to deal with crisis planning. It was also suggested that agency's network to share information.

David Daniel would like Larry to circulate notes from their last meeting with Advisory Council Members.

Housing Task Force

Chair: Chera Gerstein

The task force is still in the process of gathering information. They have had one meeting with Barbara Geller and have scheduled another to try to obtain more detailed information.

Chera has made contact with Creative Community, who wish to operate a farm based community for individuals on the spectrum. There is a Ph.D. student who is trying to generate a database of need using an online questionnaire and is collecting data and creating a database of needs, which we may be able to access and utilize. BRS is informing consumers of the survey. Chera is hopeful of being able to see all of the survey questions in order to evaluate the utility and reliability of the data it will generate.

Housing Committee members are scheduled to meet with Barbara Geller on 1/19. Chera will update Advisory Council Members at the February meeting.

Data Task Force

Chair: Jacqui Kelleher

The bulk of their work was done in the fall. The goal is now to increase, identify and track information they are provided with. Committee members can offer their assistance to other committees. We need remind all committees to share their information with the Data Committee for compiling as well as to make data requests of this committee.

Jacqui has put together a document of actions other states are taking legislatively and compiling information on credentialing, recruitment, training, action plans and outlines used by other states that may be helpful to us. She has put this into a table and will forward it to all chairs.

Medicaid Waiver Committee

Laura Digalbo and Kathy Reddington

Laura suggested that the committee disband until the state is ready to move forward. There have been ongoing meetings between DDS, DSS, DCF, OPM and DMHAS. Disbanding the Waiver Committee will be discussed at the February meeting of the Advisory Council. Members will then be freed up to work on other issues. It was suggested that a committee be formed to review BCBA Credentialing and that the Data Committee compile information and make recommendations to the Provider Committee for review. The agencies are discussing various options to create waivers that address current state spending.

David Daniel would like to continue bi-monthly conference calls with all chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.