

Sustainability Work Group Minutes

June 26, 2012

Central Office Conference Room A

- **Introductions**

Members present were Jamar Cherry, Peter Mason, Pat Dillon, David Scott, Walter Glomb and Bob Thureson.

Stacie Silva-Gordon, Amy Chase and Margaret Beglinger were absent for this meeting.

- **Review Previous Month's Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and accepted. Pat will have them posted to the website.

- **Update on the work of the full committee**

Peter Mason provided an overview of what the full committee is presently working on.

Currently the full committee is still working on a survey of direct hours for group homes to determine direct hours needed to consider when developing the rates. Steering Committee members have completed the survey and will determine if the survey needs to be expanded to other providers at their July meeting.

The residential Issues committee continues working on a survey regarding technology use and how that might be useful to offset/compliment staff supports. They will check results of survey against Human Rights issues to weigh the RISK/REWARD of the technology.

The Data Management committee is surveying Business Managers around efficient ways to collect data.

There is also a survey being worked on to get a better idea of what Cluster Supports we may have in CT and what they look like.

All meeting agenda and minutes of meetings to date have been sent to Julie Bouchard for posting on the website through the following path:

DDS Website

Providers

Transition to Rates

Day

Residential

Minutes of all committee meetings will be posted there.

- **Reviewed Next Steps from our May meeting Minutes**

- Research other states and what they have done
 - How do they do increases?
 - How has service delivery changed with the Transition to Rates?

This step was held till next month's meeting to give committee members time to complete research.

- DDS to bring data to next meeting
 - % Direct Care wages in Residential Service Line
 - % of OTHER NON A&G indirect costs associated with Residential Service Line

Reviewed data prepared from FY11 Annual report data.

The data shows that the majority of residential support costs are wages and benefits. They represent 60-75% of total residential service line.

Nursing supports are included under direct or indirect costs depending on how Providers reported it.

The question was raised how the total cost compares to the appropriations. It was explained that the appropriations include other pieces (autism pilot, residential schools, FI billed supports) so it is not a direct correlation.

- Determine FOCUS of where we want to go

As the group discussed the data the scope of our task came into clearer focus. The Focus of the committee is how to sustain rates and quality of supports for residential programs as we move forward with rate transition. Wages need to sustain group homes as it is today and other issues are beyond the scope of this committee.

- **Review Day Sustainability Committee Methodology for determining a sustainable wage to see what we can learn from their process**

The group went back to the Day sustainability methodology for determining a sustainable wage and agreed that we were not sure that it applied to the profile of the current workforce. It was agreed that we would research various provider groups for demographic information that might give us a more precise view on the profile of our current residential workforce.

Once that is clarified it was felt that the other markers used in the Day committee report would apply:

HUD Fair Market Value for Rent

Food Costs from USDA

and we would base our report on this data factoring in health costs.

- **Determine Next Steps**

- Research other states and what they have done
 - How do they do increases?
 - How has service delivery changed with the Transition to Rates?
- Committee Representatives from TRADE groups will research information on profile of current workforce.

Once all information is gathered we will begin putting it together to begin drafting our proposal. The question was raised about How Providers deal with sustainability of physical structures. It was suggested that DSS needs to be brought to the table and approached as this is part of their rate structure. DDS can be a partner in the discussion, however, the primary issue needs to be addressed by Providers with DSS.

- Next Meeting
 - **Next meeting will be held July 26, 2012 CO Conf Room A from 2-4.**