

FSSAC Quarterly meeting

March 5, 2004

3rd Floor Conference Room

Colonial Building, 2401 Colonial Drive

Helena, MT

Members Present: Brian Lenhardt, Suzie Morrison, Dan McCarthy, Barb Stefanic, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Barb Smith, Ron Herman, Gerald Pease, Cris Volinkaty, Patti Russ, Ted Maloney, Sandi Marisdotter, Sylvia Danforth, Mary Huston, Diana Colgrove, Novelene Martin, Mike Cooney.

Other Present: Judy LeRoux (DDP Child & Family Liaison), Jannis Conselyea (DDP Bureau Chief), Jan Cahill (Exec. Director – QLC), Jackie Emerson (recorder - DDP Program Assistant)

Brian welcomed everyone and those present introduced themselves.

The agenda was reviewed and revised. Patti asked to share information before lunch because she needed to leave.

Family story: Brian Lenhardt and Rene are the parents of 3 adopted children. They adopted the youngest, Clifford, at 10 months old. After testing at QLC, he was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy. He is now in preschool and only receiving occupational therapy twice a month and physical therapy once a month. Brian and Rene also have an 8 year old daughter who has some developmental delays. Their oldest daughter is now 13 and Brian describes her as a very bright student. Brian works for the railroad and Rene is a stay-at-home mom.

Childcare agency report: Patti Russ

- The Early Childhood committee is meeting in the Wilderness Room today to develop a strategic plan that will focus on the health aspects of early childhood and will work to make a more comprehensive system for early childhood services.
- Governor Judy Martz, DPHHS Director Gail Gray, and Bob Runkel from OPI attended a forum on Universal Pre K. As a result, on March 23rd there will be a strategic planning meeting on early childhood. Judy LeRoux and Bob will be invited to participate.
- On March 15 & 16 there will be a national forum on Inclusion in Childcare. Groups that will participate are from Childcare Inclusion, Administration on DD, and Childcare. If anyone has ideas or input please contact Patti by March 14th.

Review and approval of minutes. No changes were suggested. Sylvia made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dan seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Agency reports:

Personnel Prep: Suzie Morrison – there are several students in practicum this spring and hopefully there will be more in the fall.

OPI: Dan McCarthy – The Part B Child Count has been submitted. The total of over 1800 is up about 100 from last year, which reverses the downward trend of the past few years. Dan shared

the data on the tables that reflect ethnic/race distribution, service setting, and the type of disability identified. The count does not identify behavioral issues but reports by dominant disabilities. All children in this count are IDEA eligible.

DD Program Update: Jeff Sturm, DDP Director –

- The Mercer Reimbursement Methodology project is intended to establish a standardized published rate for DD services and provide an assessment tool to help develop a fairer and more equitable cost plan. The system that results will provide more freedom of choice for clients. The pilot for the project is due to begin in January 2005 and full implementation should begin in 2006 depending on the pilot and shadowing process to test the new system and work out any problems.
The system will not be implemented for Part C, adult Case Management, or General Fund FES services. The rates for adult CM, FSS, and Supported Living services will be capitated. There is pressure to equalize processes and rates across all services – not only within agencies but with other agencies.
- Although RFP's were scheduled to be submitted for FES services, DDP is consulting the Legal Department to see if contracts can be extended for one more year.
- There are 3 parts of refinancing being studied:
 1. Waiver – moving kids into Waiver services. There will be approximately 400 kids in Waiver services as opposed to 200 two years ago.
 2. Targeted Case Management (TCM) – DDP is currently doing a time study with FSS's to see the percentage of time that is spent in each aspect of their duties to determine what might be billed to Medicaid. DDP has been directed by the Department to bill Medicaid for any billable services. After the data from the time study comes in, the details of the added work load and a billing system need to be studied before a decision will be made this month.
 3. Part C Maintenance of Effort (MOE) – DDP is studying the possibility of using funds other than General Fund for MOE. Three other states report using other funds for their MOE. If that were possible, the State General Fund portion could be used to generate more money for Part C, which is in need of more funds to allow for growth.
- Travis D. Lawsuit settlement – The lawsuit was settled out of court last month. The settlement will not have much affect on children's providers. It will mean a large cut for MDC and many individuals will be moved into community services.
- Waiver of Deeming Proposal– The handout presented the most recent proposal from the group studying HCBS Waiver services which recommends cost sharing for families who reach a certain income level. The change would require a Waiver amendment to require a co-pay.
- Training opportunities –
 1. Spring Staff Training – on May 3 and 4 the DD Program will be presenting training on Dual Diagnosis (DD and MH) in Great Falls. On Monday, May 3rd Ann Poindexter, an M.D., will be presenting a medical perspective and on Tuesday, May 4th Michael Mayer, PhD will be focusing more on service issues. The 200 participants will include staff from DDP, MDC, AMDD, and Provider agencies.
 2. DD Conference – The DD Conference will take place in the fall. Details will be sent out as they are available.

3. IABA (Institute of Applied Behavioral Analysis) – All State QIS's, as well as MDC staff and 10 Provider staff, will be required to be IABA trained because of the requirements of the Travis D. settlement.
4. Person-Centered Planning – All Case Managers will be required to have training on Person-Centered Planning. There may be opportunities to include FSS's.

PLUK: Roger Holt, Technical and Information Coordinator for PLUK

- Roger asked the group for input on providing information to families and providers regarding services.
- Revision of the 1st Steps Booklet: The group discussed the timing of the revision and decided that although IDEA reauthorization might require some fundamental changes, it is worthwhile to go ahead and make revisions and update information now since the document is on the PLUK website and is being downloaded 300 times per month. Roger took suggestions and input regarding what members would like to see added or changed in the current booklet. Direct links to documents, resources, and Providers will be added to the electronic document. Roger plans to contact each of the Providers for input and asked that all information be submitted to him by the end of the school year so that a short run printing might be ready by next school year. Input may be submitted on the website or through the 1-800 number.
- Roger suggested providing a separate website and possibly a separate domain name for the 1st Steps booklet.
- Data: Roger would like to know what information to include, how often it should be sent, and how people would like to receive data – he recommends that electronic exchange would be best. PLUK collects a great deal of data on demographics that they would be glad to share if people would let them know what is wanted.
- Conference calls: PLUK conducts weekly conference calls for training their staff around the state. They have offered to have Providers and DDP staff participate to help educate staff on the agencies and services available.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC): Thomas Danenhower

Thomas, on behalf of EMSC, is promoting communication and cooperation in educating emergency care workers about providing services for special needs kids. He is also trying to strengthen the parent advocate program and needs people who know about developmental disabilities. Any input and ideas regarding ways to make services better for the DD population would be valued. The national website for EMSC is www.ems-c.org.

Judy's Report:

The group reviewed the OSEP response to last year's Annual Performance Report (APR). The response lists issues that OSEP wants to see changed or clarified in the upcoming APR. Judy discussed how each of the issues would be addressed.

Ted suggested that a Committee be formed to review and approve the APR before it is submitted this year. Cris made a motion to form the Committee to consist of Brian, Ted, Sandi M., and a QIS from the Helena area. The motion was seconded by Lucy and passed unanimously.

The data tables for this year's report were reviewed and Judy reported on the data that is being or has been collected for each of the clusters.

Child Protective Services (CPS): In their effort to develop a screening tool to evaluate children in cases of substantiated abuse, Ted has helped CPS with an assessment for DD. It is hoped that the tool will help the CPS worker determine if the child needs to be referred to other services for further evaluation.

Agency Reports (cont.):

Speech/Language Clinics: Lucy Hart-Paulson – The opportunities are increasing for obtaining a Masters degree online for Speech and Language Pathology. The 2nd phase of the program will include leveling classes that would allow those with a Bachelors degree in another field, after completing these classes, to pursue a Masters degree in Speech and Language Pathology.

QIS: Novelene Martin – Comp evals for children's agencies show that the required contact with an FSSAC parent representative has not been happening. Parents, please contact the QIS in your region -the contact information for QIS staff in each region is attached.

CSHS: Barb Smith – The Memorandum of Understanding between Children's Special Health Services and DDP is almost finished. It will help people understand who pays for which services.

There will be training for family advocates next week to help them assist families who have children with special needs concerning health insurance.

Rural Institute: Ted Maloney – The Child Find grant will receive a no cost extension that will be used to contract with Child and Family Providers to gather information for planning. The Personnel Preparation grant is focusing on distance education to provide training to work with rural areas. Brochures and information will go out as soon as available. The class block will begin during the Junior and Senior year of college. Part of the grant will provide funds for scholarships.

Family Outreach: Sandi Marisdotter – Family Outreach is overserving in Part C. The contract is for 96 children but the agency is currently serving 140 with the highest for the year reaching 157. DDP provided additional funds for entitled services but not for staff.

NEXT MEETING: will be Friday, May 7th in the 2nd Floor Wilderness Conference Room of the Colonial Building and will start at 9:00am with lunch break beginning at 11:30

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