

OPWDD/Provider Association Partnership

Monthly Meeting – March 28, 2011

Meeting Notes

OMRDD Attendees: Acting Commissioner Courtney Burke; Jim Moran; Jay Kiyonaga; Sheila McBain; Suzanne Sennett; John Monteiro; Joanne Howard; Karen Galarneau; Donna Cater; Tom Sheedy; Bob Murphy; Henry Hamelin; Jenny Haneman; Joanne Bushart; Barbara Brundage; Barbara Cavallo; Karisa Capone; Anne Swartwout; and topic-specific staff

Provider Association Attendees: Jan Abelseth (COMPASS Agencies); Stephen Boese (LDA of NYS); Sue Constantino (CP Association of NYS); Mark Foley (DDAWNY); Ann Hardiman (NYSACRA); John Kemmer (NYSARC); Gary Milford (Learning Disabilities Assoc.); Anne Ogden (NYS Catholic Conference); Peter Pierri (Inter Agency Council); Seth Stein (Long Island Alliance); Barbara Wale (EDA NYSARC); Yvette Watts (NY Assoc. of Emerging & Multicultural Providers, Inc.); Jeff Wise (NYS Rehabilitation Association); Wafa Abboud (Multiculture Council); Ed Matthews (CP of NYC)

Welcome/General Remarks

- Acting Commissioner Burke stated that in the next couple of days, OPWDD will have a response to the New York Times news article.
- OPWDD presented an overview of its concept for an 1115 Waiver to CMS. It was felt that CMS was very receptive to this idea. OPWDD will need to commit significant resources and receive input from stakeholders as this initiative moves forward. OPWDD will send the concept paper to CMS shortly (it was transmitted on 3/29/11).

Quality Issues Discussion

- *Training Actions* – OPWDD will be making its refresher training curriculum on abuse prevention available online. OPWDD is also developing a consortium that will collaborate with voluntary providers and other stakeholders to develop training curriculum and competencies.

The consortium will have a state wide steering committee and regional committees. Membership will include national experts, DDSO representation, self-advocates, parents, voluntary agencies, etc. The goal of the consortium is to design, implement and maintain a consistent, enterprise wide, outcome focused approach to develop a sustaining talent in the field of developmental disabilities

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and therefore provide consistent, high quality supports and services to all individuals in our care. Priorities for the consortium are to develop a standardized set of competencies for Direct Support Professionals (DSP), which includes supervisors; create a training plan that outlines resources to master DSP competencies; and structure talent development opportunities to maximize the achievement of quality outcomes for the individuals we serve. Provider Associations were asked to identify nominations for steering committee members and DSP Talent Development Initiative project team members.

- *Quality versus Compliance* – Discussion from the group on how to balance the need for compliance while still constantly striving to improve quality and meet individualized outcomes. The topic of incident reporting will be discussed at the next provider meeting.

Shared State/Voluntary Provider Activities focus

- OPWDD is developing a focus group that will provide guidance to assist agencies with implementing efficiencies and to develop best practices and potential models that can be replicated around the State. These efficiencies may include collaborating or sharing functions with other agencies, such as training, human resources, IT, and transportation. Provider Associations were asked to identify individuals to participate in the group.
- OPWDD needs to achieve net financial plan savings of \$90 million in Medicaid funded services. OPWDD has developed various initiatives to meet this target, and provider concerns were discussed and addressed. Additional topic areas will be taken under consideration in order to determine the effect on the proposed budget actions.
- As of July 1st, Health Care Adjustments (HCA) 1 through 6 will be put into the category of fringe benefits in a provider's rates and fees. Additionally the specificity with reference to the use of the HCA monies will sunset June 30, 2011.

Updates

- *Enhanced Supported Employment (ESEMP) Status* – The goal of ESEMP is to help individuals who wanted to work, but had barriers to getting employment. Through this initiative, OPWDD has found that individuals who were thought to be “unemployable” can find a job that they want when staff provides an enriched

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level of support. The program began in 2009 and in the 4th quarter of 2010, out of 257 individuals who were working more than 8 hours per week, 41% have been working for over 7 months and 24% have been employed for over a year. Next steps are to release another RFP on April 15th. Based on provider feedback, certain requirements will be changed for billing that will take effect for the new RFP and all current contracts on October 1, 2011. An independent project evaluation will be conducted by the Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University in the spring and summer of 2011. Any comments or questions about ESEMP can be sent to centerforemploymentexcellence@opwdd.ny.gov.

- *United Way of Rochester Feedback* – Barbara Wale reported that the United Way has consultants that can help providers' sustainability. The consultants assist agencies in restructuring strategies, such as consolidating processes, streamlining operations and agency mergers.

Wrap Up

- The next meeting of the Provider Association will be Monday, April 18, 2011.