

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2006

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – October 11th

Members			
X	Peggie Beck	X	Scott Lay
E	Jack Benson	X	Ruth McEwen
E	Jan Campbell	X	Dayle Niemie
X	Donna Crawford	X	Karen Showers
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Mike Volpe
X	Kathryn Jenness		
Attendants			
Avi Cooper, Jon Croghan, Sarah Long, and Glenna Niemie			
Staff			
Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
Speakers			
Connie Saldana		Joe Easton	
Brenda Sheppard		Gene Sundet	

Call to Order (11:02 a.m.)

There was a roll call, and a quorum was present.

October Agenda Review

There were no changes made to the agenda.

September Minutes

MOTION: Accept September minutes as written. *Passed.* (Tonita Croghan/Karen Showers)

Action Items Follow-Up

- Becky reported the Governor's Advocacy Unit is still working on their new database for complaints/reports. Lori Nelson reported that after the database is completed, reports can be requested by PDAC. She said that SPD field offices have received only about a dozen complaints so far this year.
- A letter to Dr. Goldberg was drafted and forwarded to John Helm, Chair of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, to explore the possibility of a joint effort regarding the budget process.
- The calendar for 2007 (schedule and calendar in the meeting packet) was discussed and determined to be acceptable to members. There was a question about the December Executive Committee meeting, since it was scheduled for the day after Christmas.
- A prospective applicant will be invited to the next meeting. Becky will respond to any emails received from the press release and website.
- Becky reviewed the requests from other groups to PDAC. Ruth is suggesting that PDAC not appoint a liaison to MLTCQRAC, but that a member of ODC serve in that capacity. It was agreed by the group that staff should send a note to MLTCQRAC to that effect.

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Marc went over the flowchart on how decisions could be made on whether PDAC could participate in groups or make reviews.

Staff Updates

Advocacy Team Move - The most recent proposed date for the team to move is mid-November.

Attendant Reimbursement Policy - The policy is still being worked on, and expanded to cover local DSACs and SACs. It was suggested to invite Jeanette back for an update. Scott requested a hard copy of the policy and forms prior to the next meeting.

Physical Disabilities Conference - The subgroup is researching funding for this conference and its possible structure. PDAC requests more details on who the conference would be for, stakeholders planning the event, etc.

Staff Evaluation - Marc talked about DHS's five core values, one being professionalism, and our unit's commitment to professionalism. We have developed an evaluation to let staff know how we are doing in specific areas. Members were asked to fill out the evaluation form (in meeting packet). Mike asked that the form to be sent out by email also.

PDAC Name Change - The group discussed a proposal that the name of the group be changed to "People with physical Disabilities Advisory Committee," keeping "PDAC" as the acronym.

MOTION: Table the discussion until the next meeting when Jan can attend, since this was a major concern to her. *Passed.*
(Kathryn Jenness/Scott Lay)

Committee Member Comments

- Kathryn would like to change the video conferencing meetings to another day or have it earlier on Wednesday.

Becky will find out if the video conferences can be attended from home, at other sites if more convenient to members, if the time can be changed from 9:00-12:00 on Wednesdays, and about Net Meetings.

- Ruth reminded members they are not turning in liaison reports. The consensus was that all will turn in a liaison report for each group they attend for PDAC.
- Marc reported on the inclusion of people with physical disabilities in the Future of Long-Term Care effort and at Senator Morrisette's Committee on Public Health.
- There will be a follow up conversation with James about the cover letter over the FLTC draft report and to ask that minutes be taken at the FLTC Work Group meetings.

Bylaw Revisions

Most changes were agreed upon. The bylaws will be made uniform, strikeouts and underlines removed, and brought back to the group in November for approval. A cover letter explaining about the possible name change of adding "physical" will be sent with the bylaws.

Public Input

None.

SPD Emergency Preparedness (Connie Saldana)

Connie reported on the Emergency Preparedness stakeholder workgroup. This group hopes to answer the question “What should be SPD’s role in disaster preparedness be?”

The next meeting is on November 9, 2006, 1:00-4:00, possibly video conferenced, and held either at the Human Services Building or Cherry Avenue office. The group is reviewing SPD policies and procedures with plans for possible legislation. At this point a work group is looking at “communication issues” on October 25, 2006, 9:00-12:00---how communication happens from the state down to the individuals, as well as across agencies. A long-term care facilities work group is reviewing state and federal regulations and possibly other issues on November 4, 2006, 1:00-4:00.

Connie welcomed PDAC’s participation in the full group and/or the work groups. She also wanted to know what the terminology should be for those in need of assistance? “Special needs” is the term used by responders; other suggestions were “alternative needs” and “unique barriers”. Some members weren’t as concerned with the language as they were being remembered.

OPI & List of Services

Ruth is a member of the OPI rule group, and asked for feedback on what services should be included for people with disabilities. There was a discussion of how the proposal should read, and the fact that 18-year-olds are not included, and what is being done to make services available for that age cohort.

Ruth heard there was a problem with some surveys: people who get OPI are not supposed to be receiving Medicaid but 23,000 are receiving both. Concerns were raised about how this will affect funding. [James and Cathy reported on 10/12/06 they had not heard anything about this, and the numbers could not possibly be correct given how many people are actually receiving services under OPI. The only thing mentioned were coding revisions being made in the system to be in compliance.]

Individual Assessment for Services (Joe Easton, In-Home Services Manager)

Joe provided information about the new MMIS system that is going to be up and running by July 2007 for provider payments.

Joe reviewed the information from Donna Crawford and discussed the state's reasoning on the responses given. He also answered the group's questions about ADLs and IADLs.

He recommended clients to talk to the field program managers or to central office staff if they don't get answers to their questions or if they have a complaint.

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**EPD Letter (Brenda Sheppard, EPD Program Coordinator;
Gene Sundet, Medicaid Financial Program Manager)**

Brenda distributed a written response to Scott's (for PDAC) letter. There has not been a drastic decline in EPD clients. Some outreach has been done through the MIG2 grant. There are quarterly trainings that include EPD. There were some changes in 2003 but Brenda could not answer since there was no way to quantify the answer.

A work group is going to be restarted, and Brenda asked that PDAC be involved. Mike, Scott, Dayle, and Karen volunteered to be part of the group. The plan is the work group will define issues and set up a timeline for revising policy and conducting its work.

Adjourn (4:19 p.m.)