

**ID Coordinating Subcommittee for  
Intellectual Disabilities Services  
Meeting Summary  
July 12, 2011**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Intellectual Disabilities Services met at the Alabama Public Library, Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order by Ann White-Spunner

**Members Present**

Ann White-Spunner, DMH/ID Representative  
Willodean Ash, DMH/ID Representative  
Jeff Williams, DMH/ID Representative  
Jim Dill, Alabama Council Representative  
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative  
Dianne Durbin, DMH/Advocacy Representative  
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative  
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative  
Myra Jones, DD Council Representative  
Bill Hoehle, ACE/Arc Representative  
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Provider Representative  
Murray Townsend, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Jeff Ridgeway, People First of Alabama Representative  
Elouise Woods, People First of Alabama Representative  
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer Representative  
Susan Klingel, Region 1 Provider Representative  
Danny Grant, Region I, Consumer Representative  
John VanCamp, Region II Provider Representative  
Katherine Parker (Lou Vick), Region II Family Representative  
Blesses Malone, Region 3 Consumer Representative  
Patti Martin, Region 4 Provider Representative

**Visitors**

Michelle Vilamaa, Susan Ford, Caroline Gomez, John Morris, Anthony Couch, Joey Kreauter, Andy Slate, Lee Conner, Ellen Gillespie, Vicki Hicks-Turnage, Kimberly Bell, George Neal, Eugene Rogers, Dana Moore, Marlene Hudson, Alexis Moore, and Eugene Rogers

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

### **Approval of June 7, 2011 Minutes (A.White-Spinner)**

June 7, 2011, meeting minutes were presented for approval. There was a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Agenda (A. White-Spinner)**

The agenda was reviewed. Mr. Townsend asked that the following item be added to the agenda: "The Ability for Individuals to Return to Day Program if Supported Employment Does Not Work Out for Them".

A motion was made to approve the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded and it passed.

### **Planning Update (M. Vilamaa)**

Mrs. Vilamaa presented recommendations from ID Planning Work Groups to the subcommittee for approval. The following is a list of the work groups:

1. Close Partlow and Use Money for Community Use
2. Eliminate the Wait List
3. Legislative Action
4. Adequate Rates and COLA
5. Complete Community Integration
6. Dedicated Funding Streams
7. Revise the Waiver

Mrs. Vilamaa noted that the Consolidated Legislative Action and Dedicated Funding Streams work groups have not met yet. A discussion was held about the two work groups. Mr. Williams suggested that the two groups meet in the near future, and Mrs. Vilamaa bring recommendations back to the subcommittee for approval. If something of extreme significance arises out of the work group meeting then perhaps the Operational Plan can be revisited.

It was pointed out by several members that there was duplication of information in the current recommendations. Mrs. Vilamaa replied she will clean up the duplication. She indicated that based on the timeline for submitting the Operational Plan to the Governor's office, the top three recommendations needed to be voted on today.

Dr. Hoehle made a motion that the top three recommendations include: 1) Close Partlow and Use Money for Community Use, 2) Eliminate the Waiting List, and 3) Adequate Rates and COLA. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mrs. Vilamaa wanted to know if the subcommittee felt it was still necessary for the ID planning work groups to meet in the future. The subcommittee agreed it was not necessary because recommendations have already been made by all work groups except the Consolidated Legislative Action and Dedicated Funding Streams work groups.

Mrs. Vilamaa distributed the assisted living information regarding the ID Planning Waiver work group. It was pointed out that this information will be reviewed by the ID Associate Commissioner and the Commissioner. Mr. Townsend asked that the assisted living information be viewed as a "choice" situation.

Dr. Gillespie asked if subcommittee members can email their comments and feedback regarding the information on assisted living. Associate Commissioner White-Spunner replied that will be a great idea. Members can email their comments to her within the next few days.

Dr. Hoehle stated he thought assisted living is the family's choice.

### **Tuscaloosa Articles/Partlow/Community Living (J. Ziegler)**

Dr. Ziegler indicated that his view about closing Partlow is the right thing to do. He stated DMH is receiving a lot of negative views from the Tuscaloosa News regarding closing Partlow. The good news about individuals living in the community is never reported in the midst of all the negative news.

He shared with the subcommittee an article from the Tuscaloosa News entitled "Group Homes Causing Concerns". This article, which is written by the Mayor of Tuscaloosa, depicts the institutional mindset. Dr. Ziegler asked members to think about positive stories regarding the individuals we serve. He feels that it would be a good idea for members to write letters to the editors of the Tuscaloosa News. The letters should be success stories about individuals in the community. Dr. Ziegler added that recently DMH did a film on Charity and very soon a documentary will be completed on her as well. He needs the subcommittee to feed the Office of Public Information success stories of individuals living in the community. Dr. Ziegler's email address is: [John.Ziegler@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:John.Ziegler@mh.alabama.gov).

Apart from sending information to Dr. Ziegler, the group was asked to also send letters to the editor of the Tuscaloosa News, Mayor Hendon of Northport, and Mayor Maddox of Tuscaloosa.

### **ID Division Update (A. White-Spunner)**

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner indicated that in regards to the Commissioner conversation about the budget, all provider contracts will include a 9% cut (except the Arc's) effective October 1, 2011. Dr. Dill inquired about the contracts amendment timeline. He does not think all programs are going to be able to operate after the 9% cut. He added with services being cut, this poses the possibility of losing the waiver.

Dr. Hoehle inquired about providers being notified of the 9% cut, and Associate Commissioner White-Spunner replied she is going to send out a notice. It was also suggested that minutes from the subcommittee meetings be forwarded to providers as well. Dr. Dill pointed out that the ID Subcommittee and the Management Steering Committee are composed of representatives from the different provider agencies. He thought these representatives were responsible for sharing information with providers.

Mrs. Klingel stated in regards to the Arc's being excluded from the 9% cut, they asked Commissioner Baugh if they needed cuts too, and they were told "no". Mrs. Klingel further stated they also put their local match on the table, and they were told by Commissioner Baugh that the Department was looking at other things. Dr. Dill replied even though Mrs. Klingel has indicated that the Arc's put an offer on the table, he has talked to other Arc's and they were not aware of this offer. In fact, the other Arc's have been asking that the language stay in.

### **Partlow Update (A. White-Spunner)**

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner indicated that the Commissioner will be initiating the lay-off process at Partlow. The initial date is August 1, 2011.

The census is 117. The goal is to have census at or below 95 by the first week in August 2011. ID is working toward establishing crisis stabilization providers in Region I and Region III very soon. So far, the following crisis stabilization providers are available in the following regions:

Region II - Ability Alliance

Region IV - East Alabama MH

Region V - The Arc of Jefferson County

The crisis stabilization teams are available and more training is being developed. Services can be accessed through the regional offices. Associate Commissioner White-Spunner also noted that the current teams are mobile in nature and services from each team are for the regions in which they reside. In order to receive crisis stabilization services, contacts need to be made through regional

offices. They have designated team members associated with their agencies which are similar to the comprehensive support services teams. Ms. Ash noted that they do have beds available which are designed for short-term stay (temporary stay). These beds are available through waiver services. In other words, the beds are not available for individuals who are not on the waiver.

Mrs. Martin thanked East Alabama MH for doing such a good job.

Dr. Gillespie noted that there are several issues that needed to be ironed out. She needs to get with ID about the specifics.

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner clarified the role of Dr. Woods. Dr. Woods will only be available for consultation. He will not be practicing medicine.

### **Management Steering Committee Report (L. Conner)**

Mr. Conner gave the MSC report. He indicated that the Commissioner mentioned the Department's layoff plans. The Commissioner also mentioned she wanted the MSC to resume being a planning group for the Department. She noted that MSC is charged with the Department's budget. Steve Lafreniere informed the group that a MH program will be developed in schools.

### **People First of Alabama (J. Ridgeway)**

- People First of Alabama is still working on state chapters.
- Some organizations and providers have come to the realization that People First of Alabama is a privilege and not a right.
- People First of Alabama serves individuals with disabilities.
- If anyone needs training regarding the function of People First, Mr. Ridgeway would be happy to arrange this training for them.

### **Arc of Alabama (M.Townsend)**

The Disability Conference will be held October 5-7 2011, at Perdido Beach Resort. The Arc of Alabama is asking for sponsorship. They are asking that the Department be well represented at the conference.

### **ACE/Arc (B.Hoehle)**

- Dr. Hoehle reported he is no longer the President. He will be serving as Region 5 representative on the subcommittee. Donna Akins is the

President and Lou Vick is the Vice President.

- John Morris will be serving as the new ACE/Arc's representative on the subcommittee until Donna Akins returns from medical leave.

**MR 310 (Jo Poates)**

No Report

**ACCMHB (J.Dill)**

No Report

**New Business (A. White-Spunner)**

**System Change for ID**

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner indicated that at the last meeting, the Commissioner asked the group to submit the top three recommendations for system change. As requested, comments, feedback, and recommendations were received from members. After reviewing the recommendations, she realizes some of the recommendations were MI/SA driven. She would like for the group to focus on more realistic ideas that ID can accomplish. MI//SA is not regulated by CMS like ID. There are a lot of ideas and possibilities for the ID Division. She further stated that some of the recommendations indicate that there need to be more discussion about case management services. Integrated living/employment was a huge concern; individuals and family input into the waiver was a big concern; peer support specialist was recommended; and there were other great ideas as well.

She would like for the subcommittee to have a separate meeting to discuss these ideas and recommendations in depth. The ideas and recommendations will be consolidated and distributed during that meeting. The subcommittee agreed to have the meeting September 6, 2011, at 1:00 after the subcommittee meeting.

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner stated that she feels there is a chasm between DMH and its providers. She would like for the subcommittee to figure out a way to bridge this chasm. It is important for both the Department and providers to be supportive of each other; and assist each other in order to get the job done effectively and efficiently

**Contracts Update (J. Kreauter)**

An inquiry was made regarding the status of contracts. Mr. Kreauter replied contracts and exhibits were being reviewed by DMH Legal Division.

**Partlow Numbers (A.White-Spunner and J.Kreauter)**

Mr. Kreauter distributed handouts regarding the expenditures for Partlow. He gave a thorough overview of the expenditures for Partlow. He stated that as clients are discharged from Partlow, the per diem increases for the remaining clients. A discussion was held.

Associate Commissioner White-Spunner indicated that a budget update for Partlow will be sent out each month to the subcommittee with the minutes and the agenda.

Mr. Townsend requested that a budget be prepared for Partlow for the next 3 to 4 months for the legislature. Also, he requested that a budget be prepared for the entire waiting list.

**Meeting Adjourned**

The next meeting will be held August 2, 2011, (10:00 a.m.) at the AIDT Center, Montgomery, Alabama.