

Rhodes to Independence Steering Committee

Approved Minutes 1-18-05 meeting

Summary Minutes

January 18, 2005

In Attendance: Diane Cook, Aleatha Dickerson, Tim Flynn, Elaina Goldstein, Brenda Holder, Dianne Kayala, Steve Kitchin, Anne LeClerc, Michelle Malloy, Thomas Martin, Arthur Plitt, Christine Rancourt, Susan Shapiro, Lauren Slocum, Michael Spoerri

Staff: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Natanya Szendro, Devorah Weiner, Nancy Wooten

- **The minutes from the 11/15/04 meeting were approved (could not be approved at the 12/20/04 meeting because attendance was not sufficient for a quorum). Meeting notes for 12/20/04 were also reviewed.**

- **David Sienko sent a letter of resignation from the Steering Committee and as Chair of the Youth in Transition Workgroup, though he will remain as a member of the YIT workgroup. The Steering Committee authorized the staff to send a letter to David to be**

signed by Steve, accepting his resignation with regrets.

2005 Steering Committee Composition

- **At the beginning of each year, current members are asked whether they wish to remain on the Steering Committee. This year Rhodes to Independence is beginning a second 4-year Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. The Steering Committee needs to reflect on where the project is and what is going on in the state. At the beginning of the first 4 year grant, the Steering Committee was designed for three different grants with common objectives (instead of forming three different Steering Committees). Of these three, only the BPAO grant is still active. At the Staff retreat on January 10th, the Steering Committee composition was reviewed in the context of the new Medicaid Infrastructure Grant's goals and deliverables. At the beginning of the year, current members were polled to ascertain who would like to continue – most did.**

- **The Steering Committee Composition Recommendations hand-out was discussed at length. Discussion included the following:**

 Letters of reappointment will be sent to every current member.

 There was a question concerning whether Aleatha Dickerson served on the committee representing ORS or as a consumer. In 2004, in terms of a composition slot, she served as a consumer. It was discussed that a staff recommendation was to check with Ray Carroll for the name of someone would represent

ORS on broader issues (the current ORS slot was for the BPAO). It was decided that if Aleatha becomes the second ORS representatives, then rather than 5 consumer slots there will be 4.

 Under Employers the BLN slot will be rotated between BLN Steering Committee members. The BLN Steering Committee meets monthly and a RTI Steering Committee report will be on each BLN agenda.

 Regarding the Legislative Representatives spot, Elaina asked Sheldon Whitehouse at a meeting on the Separation of Powers whether legislators can serve on the Steering Committee. Since the Committee is an advisory body, legislative representatives may serve on the Steering Committee.

 Anne LeClerc will be the official representative of RIPTA.

 Nancy Baker of the State Rehabilitation Council has sent an email to all members to select a representative to replace her.

 Though four legislators had been Steering Committee members, no one showed for a meeting. Since Representative Eileen Naughton would like to carry the mantle of Paul Sherlock in support of people with disabilities, it was recommended that she take one of the two slots and see if we can recruit a second person from the Senate.

 The following new composition categories were recommended: RIC Sherlock Center (Vicki Ferrara), the DEA (Aging and Disability Resource Center) – Elaina is scheduled to meet with Corinne Russo to discuss this and other issues - Corporation for Supportive Housing (Michelle Malloy), and Higher Education.

 A motion was made and seconded to approve the composition recommendations, and unanimously passed.

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Overview of 2005 Timeline, Objectives and Workgroups

- The revised workplan associated with the new MIG grant was discussed, goal by goal. It was noted that though this is a four year grant, most activities focus on Year One.**
- The proposed Workgroups for 2005 include continuation of the current Youth in Transition and Housing Workgroups, a reinstatement of the Data Workgroup (regarding Buy-In tracking and reporting), and the reorganization of the Transportation Workgroup (currently housed at RIPTA) to become a Rhodes to Independence Workgroup have been recommended.**
- The question was asked whether a PAS Workgroup that had been mentioned in 2004 should be formed. It was pointed out that the catalyst for a PAS Workgroup was directly associated with the need to reach CMS sufficiency levels in terms of eligibility. CMS has confirmed the sufficiency threshold has been met, so the need for the PAS Workgroup no longer exists.**
- Dianne Kayala said that the Cash and Counseling demonstration grant is hiring a coordinator and looking at the waivers. She will provide reports to the Steering Committee.**
- The Business Leadership Network is under development and looking for more employers to be involved.**

Medicaid Buy-In Legislation

- **There is still some confusion regarding the CMS and the State Plan Amendment. There is a disconnect in communication between regional and central CMS over the design of the State Plan Amendment. A letter has been sent to the central office. The important issue is to find the appropriate and acceptable language so the legislation does not have to be reopened.**
- **Steve and Elaina met at the Central RI Chamber of Commerce with employers to discuss the language of the Medicaid Buy-In legislation and rules that might be problematic from the employers' perspective. Three critical points were identified. A letter will be sent to Ron Lebel regarding these points. It was a very positive meeting.**

2004 Annual Report

- **The draft 2004 Annual Report of the Steering Committee was discussed. Workgroup Chairs have already reviewed their respective workgroup reports. Recommendations were requested.**
- **Diane Cook noted that while she was listed as participating in the Employee Retention Workgroup, she had attended only one meeting so asked to be taken off the list of members.**
- **As members had not had ample time to read through and review the Annual Report draft, it was determined that Steering Committee members should contact Devorah Weiner with any recommendations for changes by Tuesday January 25th who would channel the**

changes to Nancy or Kate, depending upon the Workgroup or section.

- Steve and Elaina cannot attend the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for February 15th. It was therefore decided to change the February meeting date to February 22nd at 2:30 pm. Devorah will send out a notice to all Steering Committee member to announce this change of date**