

Rhodes to Independence Steering Committee Minutes 2-22-05

Summary Minutes

February 22, 2005

In Attendance: Leo Canuel, Aleatha Dickerson, Vicki Ferrara, Elaina Goldstein, Dianne Kayala, Steve Kitchin, Thomas Martin, Susan Shapiro, Lauren Slocum, Michael Spierri

Guest: Art Schnure

Staff: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Valerie Shore, Natanya Szendro, Nancy Wooten

Welcome, Approval of Minutes and Introduction of New Steering Committee Members

- The minutes from the 1/18/05 meeting were approved with the following amendment: page 4, bullet 5 of the January minutes - the meeting was held at the Central RI Chamber of Commerce, not DLT.**
- The Steering Committee introduced and welcomed new Steering Committee member Vicki Ferrara representing the Rhode Island College Sherlock Center. (She was the only new SC member present for this meeting.) Staff will follow-up to contact by phone the other new members prior to the next SC meeting as a friendly reminder.**
- New Staff member Valerie Shore was introduced. She has marketing background and experience. Her responsibilities include the development of the Rhodes' Speaker Bureau, general Outreach,**

support for the Resource Directory and working with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities' staff to set up a strategic plan to produce more ABLE-Too cable television programs (a deliverable of previous grant years, only three of the programs have been produced in the requisite format that includes interviews of employers of people with disabilities and workers with disabilities).

Steve Kitchin

Contact by phone new SC members prior to March meeting as a reminder / Staff

Week of March 14th.

Current Workgroup Updates

Developing Workgroup Updates

Rhode Island Resource Directory: Overview

Medicaid Buy-In Legislation Update

Other Business/ Next Steps Youth in Transition Workgroup

- **The Workgroup met once since the last SC meeting and reviewed the goals for the year which include developing a strategic plan around assistive technology and development / adaptation of a youth interview tool.**
- **RIPIN will begin training (using the Train the Trainer modules) on March 7th and 11th from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. SC members who wish to attend should contact Michael and Kate.**
- **Vicki requested a copy of the train the trainer manual when the final copy is completed. CDs will be made available at that time.**

Housing Workgroup

- **The Housing Workgroup met twice since the beginning of the year and established action plans for this year's goals which include conducting focus groups, conducting an operational audit of temporary housing / shelter sites and development of a Housing Registry. There are three new Workgroup Members.**

Diversity Workgroup

- **Twelve invitations to join the Workgroup have been sent out and several individuals representing different minority and ethnic populations have confirmed they will participate.**
- **The first meeting will take place mid or late March. The agenda is being developed.**

Data Workgroup

- **This workgroup will take more time to get up and running as it requires careful selection of the appropriate people who work with data and management systems in the relevant departments critical to data collection and analysis.**

Rhode Island Resource Directory: Overview

- **Guest Art Schnure has been working on the development of a web-based benefits screener and resource directory and a service tracking software application. These are deliverables of a DHS Real Choices grant. The resource search feature will be added to the Aging and Disability Resource Center website when the DHS Resource Directory is available. The statewide Resource Directory will include a database search capability.**
- **Art will also be assisting with the Data Workgroup.**
- **This Resource Directory and search capability will be brought into the Rhodes to Independence website in 2005.**
- **Art provided the Steering Committee with examples of relevant websites including the San Diego “Network of Care” for seniors / People with Disabilities website which is considered to be one of the best of its kind in the country.**
- **There are two phases envisioned for the process.**
- **Phase I:**
 - **’ Rhodes’ staff will be advising Art in development of the Resource Directory through looking at the Crossroads Directory to**

make certain it provides accurate and easy to find information / resources for people with disabilities.

 They will be looking at Crossroads information to ascertain the extent to which it has relevant information for people with disabilities and what is missing. The process for developing complete information for the Resource Directory is seen as “filling the barrel” with all complete and accurate information on resources, services, etc.

 This phase should be completed before the end of March.

• Phase II:

 An Ad Hoc workgroup of the Steering Committee will facilitate the process and work much like a focus group, participating in a brainstorming session to look at the Crossroads resource information and the additional information resulting from the Staff review and recommendations. The goal will be to make sure that the information on the Resource Directory is complete and accurate, and all people with disabilities find the website an uncomplicated place to visit and obtain information.

 It was pointed out that concurrently the ADRC website is under development; the information on this site includes resources for the elderly population.

 Art already has information on the elderly - Rhodes will be helping with bringing in the information relevant to people with disabilities.

- The concern was expressed whether the inclusion of all private services and products on the website will lend legitimacy to all entities. Is there a process for inclusion / exclusion? Art said that there will be a disclaimer that inclusion on the website does not indicate endorsement. It was also asked whether a “go”/ “no go” list of organizations might be developed.

Medicaid Buy-In Update

- CMS Central and Regional offices are still attempting to be on the same page in terms of approving the legislation’s language. This disconnect was discussed at length in the January meeting. The area in discussion concerns Medicaid regulations regarding people who are already eligible.
- State Plan Amendments are usually the purview of the regional office but the Central Office has become involved in this one. A letter was sent by the regional to the central office.
- If no letter is received from the central office, the State Plan Amendment will remain as written which conforms to Rhode Island laws. CMS has 90 days to respond.

Other Business / Next Steps

- The Steering Committee reappointment letters have been mailed.
- Update on SC composition:
 - Corrine Russo will be sending a representative for the DEA.
 - BLN Steering Committee members will take turns attending

SC meetings.

 Representative Eileen Naughton will serve as a legislative representative. The second representative is still to be determined.

 The Department of Education prefers not to participate in the SC this year.

 Annette Bourbonnierre will be returning to the SC.

- Dianne Kayala announced that the Cash and Counseling project is looking for a Project Director.**
- Susan Shapiro asked SC members to promote the 2005 Northeast Rehabilitation Association conference taking place on April 21st and 22nd in Newport. Workshops will address multicultural and diversity issues. etc. For further information, SC members can contact Susan.**
- The next Rhodes to Independence meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, at the Department of Labor and Training, Building #73, 1st Floor Conference Room. Michael Spoerri**

Kate McCarthy-Barnett

Aleatha Dickerson

Elaina Goldstein

Art Schnure

Elaina Goldstein

Steve Kitchin and Elaina Goldstein