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Developmental Disabilities Services*

Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order with introductions and celebrations of success.

St. Charles County is anticipating their first CARF survey in May.

Jasper County has won a summary judgment after 3 years in a lawsuit. They have forty days for any changes in the ruling. Cause of the lawsuit was the funding of “related services”, and the judgement was based on previous judgments.

Franklin County is holding a Disability Fair tomorrow in honor of Developmental Disabilities month

Jackson County distributed green lapel pins, also in honor of Developmental Disabilities month

Pike County is working on petitions in the county to pledge “to use people first language” as an awareness measure, some people have refused to sign!

Pettis County reports that at local Smith Cotton High School a young woman with Down’s syndrome was elected court warming queen!

The minutes from three meetings were sent electronically prior to this meeting.

Vicki McCarrell moved to accept the **February minutes** as presented, and **Ron Kruse** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jennifer Wooldridge moved to accept the **January minutes**, and **Vicki McCarrell** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jennifer Wooldridge moved to accept the minutes from the **December 9, 2008** meeting. **Jake Jacobs** seconded the motion, and the motion carried, with one opposing vote.

Jake Jacobs presented the treasurer’s report. There is a CD that will automatically renew 3/30/09, through September 2009. Reminders have been sent for the counties and RPO’s who are usually members but have not renewed as of this date. We are almost to the budgeted amount for memberships. The report was available electronically. **Betsy Barnes** moved to accept the treasurer’s report, and **Charlie Washburn** seconded the motion. The **motion carried**.

The Executive Coordinator’s report was made by Doris Boeckman .

- There are 78% of the hours remaining in the year, which is right on target. She has been primarily spending time on the Spring Training for Board Members and Directors. If you have not signed up yet, there are still some spaces available, send in your registration. The training will be focusing on expectations, roles and responsibilities of boards. There is some pre-training work that needs to be submitted as the information it will provide will be used directly in the training. The October Conference will continue on with the primary topics identified in this session.

- The Executive Committee met earlier today and discussed the review of the current strategic plan. Each committee should be reviewing and developing goals in the form of a work plan, which will then become the plan. Many new work groups are not integrated into the plan and should be. Please forward information from committees to Doris Boeckman.
- Reported that the basic support funding from MFH is open now.

Agency Liaison Reports

- MARF had no report
- MoAncor had no report
- Coalition report was given by Ron Kruse. He has been forwarding all coalition correspondence as information to members only. Ron Berg from DMH contacted Ron Kruse to serve on a TCM work group for the Division, and Ron Kruse referred it back to President Max Lytle. Max Lytle reported that the current MACDDS members on that work group are Ron Kruse, Marcus Whitlock, and Jennifer Wooldridge, with John Scher as an “auditing” member.

Marcus Whitlock asked for clarification between the TCM and consumer relations work group as they seem to cross over in some areas.

Doris Boeckman as Executive Coordinator asked for any information on Liaison, Committees and Work Groups, as she is in the dark about what so many groups are doing. It makes it difficult to coordinate. To facilitate this, she requested that when the link is offered to forward correspondence to CAB as well to maintain full corporate records for MACDDS. Peg Capo asked that the Executive Committee look at this issue.

Max Lytle sent around the DD work group list for review, it will be firmed up, any changes made, and sent out to the membership.

To clarify Marcus Whitlock’s earlier question, the MACDDS TCM committee should be reporting back to the membership on a regular committee report agenda.

Vicki McCarrell made a motion recommending that we have only one **link for MACDDS members that includes CAB in the mailing.** **Jim Casey** seconded the motion and **the motion carried.** This will include any minutes, committee meetings, emails etc.

Ron Kruse then went back to his Coalition report. There is a meeting tomorrow from 1:30 to 4pm. The group met March 4, 2009. Long discussions about communication, provider tax, followed up by Wendy Sullivan’s letter on behalf of the Coalition to DMH, which was forwarded to MAC members. Coalition/Division work groups on Quality Assurance, Fiscal Review, and Provider relations will all have twelve members and may have training ready to go in July, whole tasks completed by October. Looking for how to’s on supporting customers choose providers and are open to more ideas for consideration.

The Coalition also discussed incentives for national accreditation as well as disincentives, with Bernie Simons and Division staff.

SB 511 is still in committee and has been read twice. Max Lytle’s letter from MACDDS outlines what we believe that bill to state, as well as requesting an opportunity to participate in the writing of the rules. Vicki McCarrell asked for clarification regarding the provider tax. It was explained that there would be a rate increase to pay for the tax, with a remaining amount of about \$500,000 to hopefully match with MACDDS member counties for another waiver, not yet written. This waiver would be primarily to serve those on the waiting list with a score of 9 or lower.

- Supported Employment report was that the SELN group has recently met. We will get a recap from Darla Wilkerson later today.

Green and Pettis counties reported, just in, a celebration of success in that their SPOE bids for First Steps were approved for three years. This will place one in Green County and two in Pettis County.

Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS)

A program was presented on this system. Founded in 1967, it provides the retirement similar to what MOSERS provides for state workers. It is governed by state statutes but is not funded by the state. Handouts recapped the presentation. For more information, www.molagers.org

DESE Division of Special Education- Extended Employment Sheltered Workshops

- There are 93 workshops in 96 locations around the state.
- They employ 5,688 FTE, 7,500 total employees.
- Reported on the FY09 Legislative Directive that calls for an increase in the daily/weekly funding, without a total increase in funding there will be a shortfall, the issue is when the workshops will deplete that source.
- Within DESE people are not being replaced as they retire or transfer, resulting in increased workloads for those remaining.
- Also noted a contract decrease of 17% from the same time last year, with an additional 20% decrease between January/February 2008 and January/February 2009.
- dese.mo.gov/divspaced/shelteredworkshops a site for more information
- 600 people are currently on the wait list, up from 200 last year
- 25% of the workshops have gone to a 4 day work week, primarily rural shops who provide their own transportation. They are still working 30 hours a week, just 4 days
- There has been an increase in “training time” as a category, which is beginning to be monitored and defined. This is not reimbursable time
- Looking to lay off or convert to day hab units if possible
- Transition programs are beginning to be effected
- Two thirds of the workshops belong to the Workshop Managers Association
- Training is defined for now as work related skills and must have a curriculum or training plan
- Vicki McCarrell asked if there were other ways to access stimulus dollars for business development. Perhaps USDA grants or through Department of Economic Development.
- Other ideas should be submitted to Transform Missouri.gov
- NISH contracts are a difficult process but a long term contract for federal work

DMH- Division of DD, Employment and Training

- Darla Wilkerson reported that employment has moved to a more prominent need in the restructure of the Division
- DMH joined State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) in October 2008
- An assessment of current practices resulted in a report with recommendations to create a state wide work plan
- Organizational changes will affect the Division and employment, in DRAFT form now, final draft is expected by April 30, 2009
- The Division has placed employment coordinators in each regional office, they are getting up to speed now
- There is a stakeholders group that has a one year commitment to advise on this process
- Marketing piece is missing but will be developed
- This will be a long term process, one person at a time.
- It will call for a shift in focus within the IP and in person centered planning that currently shows little or no employment data.
- Missouri is low in ranking for people with developmental disabilities and employment
- Missouri’s Transition from School to Work is poor even with work experience
- Service definitions and rate structure will need to be looked at
- A variety of training opportunities are expected to become available which will include College for Direct Support, elearning, and face to face learning opportunities
- Partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation and APSE

- Currently Employment Coordinators that are placed at the regional offices are service coordinators as well. They will be able to serve as resource specialists later on
- VR counselors provide eligibility and funding and then refer to a provider
- SESP's (Supported Employment Service Providers) take care of actually providing the services

A lively discussion ensued

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.