

*Max Lytle, President*  
*Developmental Connections*  
*2281 ½ S. Business Hwy. 65*  
*P.O. Box 1701*  
*Hollister, MO 65673*  
*417-335-4135; fax 417-335-5286*  
*maxlytle@centurytel.net*



*Jennifer Wooldridge, President Elect*  
*Jefferson County, [jrwooldridge@dsjc.org](mailto:jrwooldridge@dsjc.org)*  
*Debra Miller, Secretary*  
*Howard County, [dmiller@endlessoptions.org](mailto:dmiller@endlessoptions.org)*  
*Jake Jacobs, Treasurer*  
*Jackson County, [jjacobs@eitas.com](mailto:jjacobs@eitas.com)*  
*Alecia Archer, Member-at-Large*  
*Jasper County, [jcsfb@jcsfb.com](mailto:jcsfb@jcsfb.com)*  
*Cathy Arrowsmith, Past President*  
*Marion County, [carrowsmith@mcsddf.com](mailto:carrowsmith@mcsddf.com)*

*Missouri Association of County  
Developmental Disabilities Services*

---

Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2009

President Jennifer Wooldridge called the meeting to order at 8:45am.

The MOU discussion from yesterday resumed. In addition to the changes discussed yesterday it was recommended that the first paragraph be reworded to clarify who the membership is and that the last statement will reflect that the memorandum be updated annually or as there are leadership changes on either side. Betsy Barnes moved to accept with the changes and Chuck Snow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was some discussion centered on specific county's experiences with recent program audits. Highlights of the discussion are

- County/agency long positive history of providing good services is being undermined by current climate of distrust
- Particular history of ISL services being based on a year not a month and the ability to average a year's worth of cost and experiences
- Some Department of Mental Health Regional Offices are requesting a point by point reviews of records, extensive but not specific in regard to rules/directives and interpretation
- There was some discussion as to the returned correspondence points being in the contracts, after a review it appears not.
- Membership wondered if Habilitation Centers and Psychiatric Centers operated by the state are held to the same record keeping requirements
- One member reported that the DMH staff "could not reveal what was used to detect fraud", which posed the question, is a state wide tracking system available?
- For logging or documentation, the state cannot accept electronic signatures so each day must be printed and signed. This makes for an awful lot of paper. One page could hold many entries, with one signature for a more efficient use of technology and time.
- From the membership it is clear that each regional office has its own interpretation.
- MoAnchor has requested training via the Coalition but that does not appear to be possible from the DMH perspective. At the same time MoAnchor members have reported that what is unacceptable is clearly pointed out, but what is acceptable is not, even what specific questions are raised.
- It would seem that monitoring activities are taking the place of licensing which is not the intent of the statute.
- These are appropriate Coalition topics, and Jennifer will take this information to the group.

***Dedicated to the Promotion of County Initiative in Developmental Disabilities Services***  
***www.macdds.org***

- A written timeline for systems transformation will be requested

Jennifer wrapped up the discussion with a reordering of the day's agenda. We will be concentrating on the update from DMH on the budget and then on Sarah Topp's legislative update. Jennifer intends to

Ask about

- A written training tool for Medicaid waiver reviews based on the federal rules
- A written plan including training on systems transformation
- True partnering on issues, "before" they are released

Kathy Meath representing Ancor brought information on the Federal Stimulus Package. The federal match has the potential to increase in amount coming back to the state. Ancor is putting forth the idea that these monies should be coming back to the Medicaid services for people and not going into General Revenue. Some states have legislation to protect this, the primary issue is that the money get reinvested into services and not saved. Kathy passed out packets with all of the information and will continue to update the membership.

- Division of Developmental Disabilities update began with an apology from Bernie Simons. It seems that the Provider relations Directive was not out of draft format and had not been sent out for comment when it began to be rolled out across the state. He is sending a letter via the Coalition outlining the action due to the mistake.

Introductions were made all the way around the room as several new faces were present.

Dr. Schaffer reported on the budget, with handouts being distributed by Jeff Grosvenor. He is pleased with the changes from the initial scenario released and the actual Governor's recommendations.

- The primary cuts of 9 million and 1.7 million are expected to come from changes at Mid Missouri Mental Health Center and Western Missouri Mental health Center.
- Staff cuts are expected at Central Office.
- Caseload growth has been included in this year's budget, and the amount of services we are able to purchase could increase if the FMAP changes the ratio of Federal match.
- A 3%COLA for state employees was included, but not for providers.
- Senator Nodder is requesting annual rebasing for providers to acknowledge the cost of providing services. From a historical perspective the provider community is collectively 400million out of alignment. Falling further behind is not an option
- Medication and food services also saw substantial increases in the proposed budget.
- The first supplemental hearing was held yesterday and things are very positive at this time.

A discussion about the possibility of the match dollars running out and whether the Department would rely on increased FMAP dollars for services. It was stated that their intent was to not rely on the additional monies for current services so when the money changes the services will not. It was also stated that the additional dollars generated would not come back to the Department.

- There is 20.9 million in withhold this FY, but no reduction
- FMAP on the community side for TCM is at the old rate, but may increase

There was some question raised by the membership as to if county match funds can be used legally to support General Revenue, or if those funds must stay in the county. Research will be completed. A significant amount of waiver match comes from county dollars.

- Dr. Schafer asked what 50/50 initiatives could DMH offer to MACDDS?
- Another group is looking at one time purchases of real estate, monies would be replenished.
- A MACDDS committee will work with Bernie Simons to brainstorm 50/50 projects that could be put in the budget.
- Lopez waiver could grow, but we will have to tackle the automatic eligibility at age 18 cost.
- It was suggested that the extra monies could be used for a variety of needed training for parents, self advocates and providers
- Half a million windfall could be seen in FY11 budget

#### Other considerations mentioned by membership

- County reassessments and other factors may decrease the amount of dollars available to counties
- May need to use these expected dollars to fill in these projected short falls
- State carryover is available in good times, in FY09 budget/spend 8.9 million with only 7.6 million actually available
- Dr. Schaffer brought forth the idea of collaboration and the change of attitude that will be evident in a change in behavior. Concerns were voiced by the membership again about the lack of partnership and worries of the employees on the DMH side having significant impact on their interactions with the provider community.
- The accreditation discussion that followed pointed out that we (providers) are producing all the Quality improvement documents and would gladly share those documents with our DMH partners. Lack of experience or information for small providers and for DMH employees should not be such an issue, many accredited agencies would be happy to offer consultation or training for people.
- Bernie Simons announced that the level of need tool is posted on the web page. Trying to move from a reactive strategy to a proactive one
- Bernie Simons discussed waiver application requirements, posed the question “how do we get to the 7’s on the wait list? and “what would be the cap for services”? The idea of a work group for eligibility was brought up.
- In general, maximizing people’s benefits is a need. There is a four day training in St Louis and Kansas City that trains for becoming a benefit specialist.
- Jeff Grosvenor discussed caseload growth plan. If all goes well the 11’s and 12’s on the wait list will receive the services they have waited for and by July 1<sup>st</sup> we should be getting to the 9’s and 10’s
- The MACDDS waiver work group volunteered to look at changes in 100% funded slots changing to 40% funding.
- Sarah Topp presented on the legislative session so far.
  - Governor’s recommendations are available on line
  - Committee hearings are beginning, mostly appropriations committee
  - Some reaction to the budget overall have included negative response to the amount of the budget based on projected federal dollars
  - The general feeling about the federal stimulus is to spend the money but also be concerned about sustainability. Hopeful to be “back on our feet” by July 1 2010
  - Not for Profit fundraising could be helped by the passing of a bill that allows tax credits for donations. The Not for Profit has to purchase the tax credit and it keeps it revenue neutral. There is a cap on credits for sale.
  - Conference calls with the Legislative Committee are the Friday before the MAC meeting
  - Possible bill to watch for is one where tax levy amounts could increase in times of decreased tax revenues.
  - Jenifer Wooldridge distributed copies of the legislative priorities for all three groups in the Coalition.
- The discussion again turned to MACDDS specific issues.
  - What position should we take on the federal match going to general Revenue? Again, is that legal?
  - The FMAP increase in other states is being used to prevent cuts in services and eligibility. In Missouri it could be used to put us back on track.
  - Discussed again the ANCOR stand on agency/provider viability nation wide. The platform they promote ties realistic rates, COLA’s annually and increased FMAP dollars to the viability, and sustainability of agencies/providers. Of course, their stand is that increases in FMAP dollars should stay in Medicaid services.
  - The DMH budget seems to balance on elimination of positions and federal stimulus dollars.
  - The 3% increase for state employees doesn’t seem to be in line with cutting positions.
  - Les Wagner will follow up with the legalities of using county dollars to indirectly fund General Revenue.

- Discussed stimulus as a one time funding source versus stimulating ongoing spending
- Have any conversations occurred legislatively about UR scoring tool?
- Does it seem that there is a disconnect at DMH level concerning one time real estate purchases versus funding people in programs?
- Although we need to find ways to leverage our dollars, it was agreed this is not the time.
- Returned to Committee reports
  - First Steps will be presenting next month. Betsy Barnes suggested that group meet prior to that presentation
  - Janice Tilman reported on the regulations/Standards and Policy committee. The second chapter of the Technical Assistance Manual is posted on the web site.
  - Vicki McCarrell reported that the Planning Council Employment Committee is releasing 2 \$50,000 CFI's for organizational change. The Home Committee is seeking input.