

MINUTES
NEW LTC DISTRICT DIRECTORS MEETING
February 16, 2009

Present: Mary Kennedy, Barb Nelson, Carol Patterson, Kim Wolfmeyer, Rick Kane, Barbara Larson-Herber, Craig Johnson, Judy Drier, Robin Elsner, Glenn Sartorelli, Stacy Strasler, Joe Krebsbach, Roger Tepe, Jane Smith, Mark Quam, Mike Reimer, Bill Kelsey, Tom Eggebrecht

Guests: Judith Frye, Cori McFarland

Additions and Modifications to the Agenda

None.

Discussion with State Representative on the NEW District Request for Planning Assistance

Mary opened discussion by acknowledging that the NEW counties' request for planning assistance may be difficult in light of state budget constraints. It denotes, however, an intention and commitment of the group to move forward under Family Care.

A history of the region's progress to date was reviewed. The current NEW counties with the possible exception of Menominee, intend to pursue the creation of a Long Term Care district, separate from the Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, Winnebago Lakeland District and apart from the Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca Partnership development efforts with Community Care. Menominee expects further direction from its board in March.

District start-up would be targeted for April 2010. It would be the intention of the district to purchase services and to utilize currently available information and processes from other programs in order to expedite the timeline. Technical assistance from an established MCO will be sought. Plans call for the hiring of administrative personnel to assist in planning development as funds and timing will allow. There is a remaining \$6,000 balance from the state's original regional planning grant.

Judith was unable to offer any report on the Governor's budget. She indicated the likelihood of a budget slowdown and no real prospect of new funding but also indicated that continued planning by the group was desired and would be supported. Advice was offered on planning and operational details.

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Judith suggested that paying attention to lessons learned in the Northern Bridges and other planning efforts would be helpful. Northern Bridges was noted to be targeting a May 1 start-up but still has no information system in place nor is it certified. The state is working closely with that consortium to assure its success.

Paying close attention to labor relationships under a district proposal was felt to be crucial. Central Wisconsin was reported to be experiencing current labor issues with former county employees choosing not to be represented through collective bargaining at the current time. Terri Burros of the SW region was recommended as a contact to discuss how contracted employment matters are being handled in that region. The Western region was noted to have transitioned all employees to district employment status.

Judith suggested that achieving sound business practices leading to long term solvency may be difficult with a district model. She suggested that cost effectiveness would be best achieved by addressing existing consumer service plans prior to district start-up, understanding that each plan will take time to restructure. She recommended pursuing specific plan transitions, achieving cost effectiveness ASAP and reinvesting savings in waiting list reduction. How consumers understand and accept those plans will be critical. The prospect of working with a MCO such as Community Care to assist in the process was endorsed.

The state is also working on technical assistance packages that may be of assistance, such as uniform service rate setting methodologies and case management training programs. DVD's and other media are available as part of training package and may be possible to access prior to implementation. A RFP for IT/claims processing is targeted within the next few months. A RFI for integrating case management with the business application is slated to follow. A uniform system open to all MCO's in which the consumer record would follow the person is envisioned.

In summary, the group was advised to expect a significant slowing of its planning timeline but also continued support from the state. Judith indicated her willingness to return following the release of the Governor's budget to assist in establishing specific plans and timeline.

Next Steps and Future Meetings

Discussion followed. Agreement was reached to keep elected representatives involved. Recommendation was also made to engage the area Tribes more fully in the planning process and to more specifically determine district plans for purchased versus provided program components. The group felt that enlisting other programs and experts in education and training would be advisable.

Jane indicated that the Tribes may not be well positioned for district participation at the present time. District operations could overlap with sovereignty considerations. The Tribes are also working on their own case management and IT issues and may be positioned better for district participation down the road.

The group was encouraged to consider final district composition and boundaries for planning purposes. It was noted that it may be difficult to continue adding new counties once a board is developed.

Mary will remain involved in planning efforts and seek to organize a sub-group planning effort Judith following her return in early April.

The next meeting was set for April 13th at 1:00 P.M. at Brown County HSD.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Eggebrecht
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