

MINUTES
NEW LTC DISTRICT
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS PLANNING MEETING
April 27, 2009

Present: Robin Elsner Bob Fraik, Judy Drier, Kathy Just (Marinette County); Mike Reimer, Craig Johnson, Loretta Shellman, and Lois Trever (Oconto County); Mark Quam, Tom Eggebrecht, Tom Hinz, Rich Langan, and Jayme Sellen (Brown County); Rick Kane, Kim Wolfmeyer, Barbara Larson-Herber, John Gallagher, Frank Pascarella and Steve Gueths (Shawano County); Bill Kelsey, Carol Patterson, Ron Opicka, Phyllis Benz, Kaye Shillin, Linda Sinkula, Janice Swoboda, and Jim Abrahamsen (Kewaunee County); Joe Krebsbach, Roger Tepe, and Mark Moeller (Door County), Barb Nelson and Tony Waupochick, (Menominee County); Mary Kennedy (Project Manager)

Guests: Andy Phillips, Tara Johnson, Carl Kalberg (by phone)

Mary Kennedy called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

No changes or additions

Minutes of February 17, 2009 Meeting

No changes or additions

Update on NEW District expansion funding and status of application for State planning assistance

The NEW Long Term Care District has received notice that funding for expansion of Family Care in the NEW District is not in the next biennial budget. Judith Frey from the State has told the NEW group, however, that she sees Family Care for the rest of the State as inevitable as it will not be acceptable to leave 5% of the State uncovered. She recommends the NEW group submit a funding application for funding of Phase I planning beginning July 2009. She agrees with the NEW plan for hiring high-level managers as planning staff with the intent that they would provide needed continuity in the management of the Family Care organization. NEW Directors and managers have submitted a revised funding application for \$396,000 for the first year. This application includes funding for a Planning Director and Fiscal Officer. If the funding application

were approved, recruitment of full time planning staff would begin as soon after July 1 as possible.

The planning application also budgets \$5,000 for Board development and training activities in the first year.

One of the counties will function as Fiscal Agent under the grant and a county will also be asked to employ the two positions until the District is created. There was discussion about the likelihood of funding beyond the first year, as significantly more funding would be needed for implementation planning and start up. The Directors and managers are meeting with Judith on April 30, 2009 to review the planning application.

If desired by the NEW group, Mary Kennedy will continue to provide planning assistance through the transition to the new planning staff. There is probably enough funding under the old grant to cover costs until the new grant begins in July.

Mary Kennedy reported on the Winnebago County Board discussion on creation of a Long Term Care District.

Presentation by Andy Phillips, Centofanti Phillips, S.C.

Andy shared information on ss. 46.2895, which allows for creation of Long Term Care Districts. He stressed that counties are not at risk in a LTC District. He mentioned that county employees who become District employees are entitled to the benefits of the collective bargaining agreement they had with the county until that agreement expires. In most Districts, the District employs all employees. In the Southwest Family Care Alliance, the District only employs a small central office business staff and contracts with each county for Care Management. Under their arrangements, each county must agree to hire additional nurses or social workers as necessary to meet caseload needs but the county is reimbursed their actual costs. Andy believes it is best practice for the District to eventually employ the care managers.

Andy indicated that each of the existing Districts operates differently. Some best practices suggested by Andy are: 1). a small Board is more flexible (15 would not be too many), 2). "at large" representatives who are experts in insurance, financial or managed care areas contribute significantly to the success of the Board, 3). the Board needs to address "Big Picture", not day to day operations and 4). the Board needs to engage in strategic planning.

Creation of the Long Term Care District and designation of Board composition requires a County Board resolution but elected officials needs a lot of information before the County Board resolutions are considered.

Andy discussed Board composition in other Districts. In all other Districts, each county has equal representation. Andy sees the District as no longer county based. In some Districts, the larger counties tend to have more of the "at large" and consumer

representatives. The Board will need to engage assistance in developing by-laws and learning about Family Care and their new role and responsibilities.

Only the Northernbridges Board has addressed the issue of Tribal involvement. Andy supported the NEW Districts plans to continue to involve Tribes in ongoing planning.

A tribal/state workgroup has been working on Family Care and ADRCs and a paper on tribal options has been drafted. The tribes are not in agreement, however, with all the recommendations/options included in the paper. Further review and discussion will occur at the tribal level before additional action is taken.

Andy discussed the applicability of the Open Meetings law to the Elected Officials' meetings. He indicated there is no guidance on this type of planning group from either the Attorney General or the Department of Health Services. Andy's opinion is that the Elected Officials group cannot make public decisions but the Open Meetings law could be one way to ensure transparency. The NEW District will soon be establishing a web site that will announce all meetings and share meeting minutes.

Discussion with Tara Johnson (La Crosse County) and Carl Kalberg (Clark County), members of Western Wisconsin Cares District Board

Tara Johnson and Carl Kalberg discussed the formation and operation of the Western Wisconsin Cares District Board. They noted that a major difference from the Northeast is that in Western Wisconsin, La Crosse County had been operating a pilot Family Care program for years. La Crosse County, therefore, provided the expertise, IT, human resources, etc, until the District assumed operational responsibility. They indicated that development of Family Care requires a lot of Board member time, as it is big shift in service delivery.

The Western Wisconsin Cares District is composed of one large county (La Crosse) and seven smaller counties. The smaller counties were concerned about a Board system where one large county would have dominance in numbers. Some smaller counties probably would not have consented to participate if La Crosse County had not indicated they would support equal representation from all counties. Carl and Tara indicated that the Board is responsible for all citizens throughout the District; not just their individual county. Both Carl and Tara supported the importance of "at large" experts as Board members.

Continued Discussion of Board Composition

The Brown County Human Services Committee will be asked to address the issue of county representation at their May meeting. Andy Phillips and Mary Kennedy will attend.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 on June 1, 2009 at Brown County Human Services.