

November 5, 2010 Council on Workforce Investment Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Subcommittee Meeting- November 5, 2010 Draft Minutes

Persons Present: Jeffrey Steren, Doug Hunt, Mary Krueger, Jeff Fox, Dan Johnson, Bob Deist, Monica Murphy, Lee Schultz, Ben Barrett, Tom Heffron, Suzanne Lee, John Lui, Jennifer Ondrejka, John Reiser, Jackie Wenkman, Nancy Owens , Pamela O'Brien, Eric Grosso, Lisa Mills, Lisa D. Ekman.

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Johnson, Ms. Murphy seconded, moved approval of the August 5, 2010 minutes that passed unanimously. Mr. Johnson, Ms. Murphy seconded, approved the agenda. It was agreed that staff would canvass the membership to find out their availability for an early February meeting, and that a full 2011 schedule will be determined after the Council on Workforce Investment establishes their meetings because the timing for Subcommittee action items is important.

Overview of Wisconsin's Economy and Employment, Eric Grosso, Senior Economist, Department of Workforce Development

Mr. Grosso noted that this morning it was announced that the national employment growth finally showed improvement, and unemployment is hovering around 9%. He explained the material in the following power point link

Mr. Reiser pointed out that the disability data is self-reporting and does not reflect the SSA disability level. Mr. Grosso acknowledged that firm data on disability-related information will be available after the 2010 Census compilations. This issue came up also during the discussion of education levels, and nature of past work. Given the disparities of educational attainment, income and unemployment rate between people with disabilities and non-disabilities, it was agreed that significant barriers still exist for full inclusion. There was also conversation about how disability-related data is collated given that census and reporting uses multiple definitions which makes it problematic for policy development. Mr. Grosso invited the group to ask further questions, and it was agreed that the best connection would be with the DHS researcher who provides support for policy/program work.

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Updates, John Reiser

Mr. Reiser stated that 2011 funds will be substantially less than previous years with all Wisconsin awards expended. Announcement of 2011 awards may not occur until late November or December. The original request was \$9 million, but in anticipation of less dollars the priorities will be: A permanent reservoir of information (service provisions, training, evaluation, etc.) for electronic access; Continuation of the Work Incentives Benefits Counseling, the best system in the nation in order to protect the array of excellent providers; Continuation of the Paths to Employment Resource Center, an electronic website for training, employment choices, technological needs and resources, etc. that is a

compatible electronic platform with all state agencies, Independent Living and other resource agencies across the State. Ms. Wenkman stated that there will still be a youth emphasis for MIG and DHS. She noted that the infrastructure changes/additions were highly quick successful, but that there is still a need for training in the infrastructure including the ADRCs and MCOs partners. Ms. Wenkman said that there will likely be a 27% funding decrease, and stressed the importance that all people with disabilities' activities will somehow be supported for MIG 2011.

Mr. Reiser discussed the "MIG Strategic Plan/Dashboard Report" handout, and Ms. Wenkman detailed a few changes. Mr. Reiser highlighted the handout that implemented the CWI-MIG Subcommittee's motion in support of MIG Reauthorization. He summarized the letter that CWI Chair Tim Sullivan sent to the entire Wisconsin Congressional delegation. Mr. Steren noted that he made the motion to communicate to the Congressional delegation "before and after the elections" so that newly-elected officials will receive the CWI's position in support of MIG. Therefore, a second letter will be sent in the next several months.

Affordable Health Care Act- MIG Reauthorization and the Need for Medicaid Buy-in, Lisa D. Ekman, JD, MSW, Senior Policy Advisor, Health and Disability Advocates

Mr. Johnson highlighted a national effort being undertaken to educate federal legislators on the importance of The Medicaid Infrastructure Grants reauthorization. The initiative for reauthorization is to provide grant funding to states as the only source of federal funding that allows for desperately needed planning activities across disability and cross system collaboration. Since the first Medicaid infrastructure Grant was awarded in 2001, the MIG grantees have undertaken a variety of activities to create a unified employment agenda at the state level and create an infrastructure support for people with disabilities.

Mr. Hunt asked about the status of the Task Force policy statement on employment. Mr. Reiser said that it had not been promulgated but that other movements like the "pre-employment" services conversations is helping to raise the issue of employment first. He also noted that there may be opportunities to craft something different that would be amenable to most everyone with the new administration.

Ms. Lisa Ekman joined via conference call to discuss the MIG Reauthorization effort. Their organization had briefings around the country on the issue and made presentations at conferences. She clarified that education for the new elected officials and policy-makers is vital and noted the handouts available for this effort: "Medicaid Infrastructure Grants: 10 Years of Systems Change, Activities, Lessons Learned, and Future Needs Summary." Ms. Ekman said that there will be other fact sheets on the success of MIG on topics such as Employment Supports, Medicaid Buy-in and Employer Engagement- Think

Beyond the Label. She also said they are working on short information pieces on "money follows the person", Work Incentives, Benefits Planning, and sample letters for media requests and elected-official meetings. Their organization also created a template so that each State can plug in their own success stories of MIG by Congressional district. The timeline for Reauthorization for MIG is expected in 2011 with a continuation by Congress in the meantime in the early part of the year. The materials will be posted on their website:

www.hdadvocates.org

She offered persons to contact her directly at: lekman@hdadvocates.org

Ms. Ekman discussed the Medicaid Buy-In Program and shared that other States were already going through a review of the Buy-In because of the misunderstanding that the national health insurance changes would no longer require the Program. She explained some of the provisions in the health insurance federal laws, and expressed that it is unlikely private health insurance companies would pay for the services in the Buy-In. She noted that this is further complicated for persons using Medicare as a wrap-around service. Mr. Reiser shared that the new Gubernatorial administration has suggested that Wisconsin would retain the Medicaid Buy-In Program. Ms. Murphy asked about how MIG successes are being reported for purposes of collating material for the Reauthorization effort. Mr. Reiser assured the Subcommittee that they not only have excellent information from each region but also "stories" of individuals who were positively impacted by a MIG activity. Another handout was highlighted from the Health and Disability Advocates on "Medicaid Buy-In Programs Must Continue after 2014."

Managed Care and Employment Task Force Recommendations, Lisa Mills, Pathways to Independence

Ms. Mills highlighted four activities:

- a. A study on cost effectiveness was summarized on a handout "A Summary of the Vocational Service Costs in Wisconsin's Medicaid Funded Long-Term Care System for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities." Ms. Lee wanted clarification as to whether the Vocational Rehabilitation support was included or not included in this data. There also was a concern that data is not being collected yet, such as insurance costs, in order to provide more accurate figures.
- b. They are implementing the Task Force recommendations related to employment status and setting, and service reporting in the reporting system along with other tweeking.
- c. CRP rebalancing initiative to shift focus around integrated employment. There are now 14 grantees. The end-of-the year reports have just been submitted and preliminary review of that data show high success rates. Ms. Mills also expressed that Vocational Rehabilitation has been a critical partner as part of this success. Ms. Ondrejka asked about trends which will be an agenda item at the next meeting. Mr. Reiser pointed out that this initiative was helpful in having people understand transition efforts and

- the shift in pre-vocational services. Ms. Murphy also wanted information on the impact of people's incomes.
- d. Mr. Johnson updated the Subcommittee on vocational futures planning with the Age and Independent Living Centers. They are in the process of analyzing the information from the activities, and will report out at the February meeting. Also, he noted that the person-centered model was very effective particularly the Fidelity scale. If there is funding in 2011, they will modify the training module, and also work with PERC to have all of these tools in an electronic format.

A handout was provided on the details of the current status on the "Managed Care and Employment Task Force."

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Policy on Employment First and what other States have

MIG Reauthorization Update

Medicaid Buy-In Update and Wisconsin's Status

CRP: Trends, types of employment, income changes

Vocational Futures Planning Report

Scope of the Family Care Audit

Demand side employment study

DVR's outcomes data for the ARRA-funded On-the-Job Training

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.