

OREGON DISABILITIES COMMISSION – EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday • March 16, 2009 • 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Conference Room 166 • DHS Building • 500 Summer Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Baxter

Judith Cunio

Sara Kendall

Bill Lynch

Norman Kohler

Ruth McEwen

Mike Oliver

Jan Campbell

Frank Synoground

Scott Lay

Damon Terzaghi

Ron Heagy

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kathryn Weit

Doug Stone

Eugene Rada

Brian Delashmutt

Mike Volpe

Tina Treasure

STAFF PRESENT:

Max Brown, Advocacy Coordinator

Jeff Stell, SPD Policy

AGENDA ITEMS:

CALL ALL TO ORDER

- Introductions

SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- Review Program Issues to Identify
- Review Program Improvements to Recommend

DATA AND INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AND SCHEDULING

ADJOURN

This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Lynch called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

EPD Subcommittee members and staff introduced themselves.

SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Program Issues to Identify, Improvements, and Strategy -

Bill Lynch opened up with a review of the last meeting, and going over meeting minutes. Key points emphasized:

- Required training for caseworkers
- Retirement/ spend down requirement
- Residential offsets
- Resource limits
- Approved accounts
- People on the program who haven't worked for long period of time
- Philosophy- poverty model vs not (regulations & rules)
- Sustainability and growth of EPD
- Educate Legislature, others

Discussion

The group discussed some of the dynamics of timing regarding the legislative session. When would be the best time to educate legislators with a brochure?

One subset – how much tax revenue to clients in the program generate? Some of the group expressed doubt that data could show the program pays for itself through income tax revenue.

The group discussed the need to get the personal stories compiled. It would be important to set a timeline.

This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

Action Item: Try to complete the profiles by March 30. There would be a need for an individual with physical disabilities and an individual with developmental disabilities.

Discussion also focused on whether EPD faces cuts. Jeff Stell attested that he has not heard of any cuts. Other participants wanted info on the Governor's proposal for the I state plan.

Action Item: Damon Terzaghi will provide I plan material for the next meeting.

DATA AND INFORMATION

Bill Lynch discussed data and information needs the EPD Subcommittee will need on a regular basis. Here is the original list sent to James Toews:

- Number of enrollees
- Number of people paying at the first, second and third levels
- How can we see that people are really working
- Number using in-home services vs. medical only
- Disability categories
- The number of people that come into the program each month
- The number of people that go out of program and why each month
- The number of people that apply and not eligible
- Type of enrollment sheltered vs employment
- Cap rates to know the cost of what it has on people in the program
- How many caseworkers were trained each quarter for EPD and where they are located

Before Jeff Stell's presentation, there were questions about the data. Why so few participants who have a mental illness?

Damon Terzaghi offered some input on data he could get at a national level as well as basic state-level data.

Jeff then started his presentation, including a historical overview of the program from its origins in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act to the present, as well as the way in which the program closes the vicious cycle for people with disabilities who

This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

would lose Medicaid when they were employed, then would not be able to work because health insurance didn't cover services, and then would get services when back on Medicaid and be able to work again.

On specific data –

- Number of people in different fee levels. Jeff made it clear that the participant fee data was just on what was billed, not collected.
- Discussed breakdown, showing that a substantial number of people are DD or non-service clients.
- **Question** – would it be possible to have an outreach plan, akin to what happened for DD, to AMH clients?
- Staff training- Jeff reported that 128 staff have been trained on EPD since January 2008.
- Discussed dynamics of how (and on what scope) it could be mentioned or trained in mandatory training courses.
- Database – Jeff is working with research staff to build an EPD database. This will show more discrete data to describe who is in the program.
- Jeff then reviewed what is possible in terms of data –
 - Can get number of enrollees
 - Can get the numbers of people billed at the three levels.
 - Can't get info on whether people are really working.
 - Can't get accurate breakout within NSS, in-home, etc.
 - Can work on number of people coming in each month, but can't track how many people 'apply' to get into EPD.
 - Can't get number of people leaving program at this time.
 - Sheltered vs. competitive employment – can get DD data, some issues on the APD side.
 - Cap rates?
 - Caseworkers trained and location – possible to get info to group. Need training records.

Ron Heagy asked about cost data and eligibility requirements. Jeff replied some data available. Also, discussion followed on the impact EPD had on clients' food stamps and housing. A quick discussion followed on Approved Accounts, and earned vs. unearned income.

This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AND SCHEDULING

The group set dates for April 13 or 20 for the next meeting; meeting items include:

- New data from Jeff;
- Damon with info on the I state plan;
- Electronic copies of the Washington program analysis for Medicaid Buy-In
- Social Security Disability Insurance and its relation to EPD.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 p.m.