

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2007**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – January 10th

Members			
X	Peggie Beck	X	Scott Lay
E	Jack Benson	X	Ruth McEwen
X	Jan Campbell	E	Dayle Niemie
E	Donna Crawford	X	Karen Showers
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Mike Volpe
E	Kathryn Jenness		
Staff			
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
None			
Speakers			
Debbie Bowers, Sue Stoner, and James Toews			

Call to Order (11:00 a.m.)

An email regarding Kathryn was read.

Roll was called and a quorum was reached.

Review of Agenda

Tom Keating will not be able to make it and so he will be invited to come give his presentation at a later date. Debbie Bowers will join James today to introduce herself instead of presenting tomorrow.

DHS/SPD Update (James Toews, SPD)

Debbie Bowers was introduced as the new Intergovernmental Relations Liaison for SPD.

SPD Budget (Governor's) - SPD is starting to work on the documents for each of the programs for their Ways and Means presentation to the Legislature. The presentation could be in as little as a few weeks.

Legislative Session - The legislative session is under way. There will be weekly phone calls held every Thursday from 10:00-11:30 to update those interested on what is happening legislatively. There will be a focus on Aging and People with Disabilities every other phone call. There will also be an e-subscribe spreadsheet available that will be updated weekly of bills the Department is following. If committee members find that they are interested in bills that are not listed on the spreadsheet they need to bring it to the attention of Morgen who will let the legislative team know so that it can be added. The members of the SPD legislative team will be available at their desks to answer phone calls Mondays and Fridays from 9:00-12:00.

ODC Update - Erinn Kelley-Siel has taken another job and Ree Sailors will be the Governor's new human services liaison. James will try to meet with her soon.

FLTC Update - There is a meeting scheduled for January 19th. An update of the draft, which includes Work Group #8's recommendations, as well as the Governor's Commission on Senior Services findings report, will be presented. The amended sections will be gone over at the next PDAC meeting. One of the new issues that will be focused on is the shortage of in-home and nursing home service workers.

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Other

Mary Gear, the new manager for the Office of Quality Care and Licensing, will start on February 5th. She will be invited to come introduce herself.

An update on what is happening with St. Rita's nursing home was given.

Review of December Minutes

MOTION: Accept minutes as written. *Passed.* (Jan Campbell/
Peggie Beck)

Follow-up Action Items

A revised "PDAC To Do List" handout was added to the packet and this was reviewed.

Staff Updates

Advocacy Unit's New Location - Various issues were brought up that the Building Committee will be working on such as the parking during meetings, the handicap access door, flashing buttons for deaf visitors, etc. Morgen asked for volunteers to go through the building again so we can write down more concerns.

Staff Changes - The position description for the recently vacated Operations and Policy Analyst 2 has been sent up to Human Resources and is open competitive. The person who is hired will be primarily working with GCSS but will also assist with all of the Advocacy Unit programs. Morgen would like a volunteer from PDAC to be part of the interview panel.

Committee Member Comments

Members voiced concern that there have been email attachments that they have been unable to open so it was decided that anything that goes out to members will be forwarded to Becky so that it can be converted to .PDF format first.

Scott raised a concern about documents from DHS or SPD where they talk about seniors, people with developmental disabilities, and people with disabilities instead of people with disabilities being all inclusive to include those with developmental as well as mental health disabilities.

Members discussed how to get employment advocates under the long term planning that is going on under the future of long term care.

Wendy asked that names of advocates be submitted to use as names of the conference rooms and resource room in the Church Street building.

Public Input

None.

Independent Choices Expansion and Rules (Sue Stoner)

Sue explained that the Independent Choices (IC) waiver renewal is still being processed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The renewal will include new terms and conditions that will result in changes to IC OARs. The revised administrative rules will go to hearing and be effective sometime in the spring. The approved terms and conditions will add only one more year to

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the life of the IC 1115 waiver (meaning the waiver ends February 2008). There is no reason to believe the program will be terminated as IC has support from the DHS/SPD administration and CMS. The shortened renewal period is due to the development of several new waivers. The new waivers are based on the Deficit Reduction Action of 2005, and amendments to the Social Security Act. CMS is urging DHS/SPD to transition IC to one of the new waivers: Section 1915(j) waiver - State Plan Option for Personal Assistant Services.

SPD is working closely with CMS to learn about the 1915(j) waiver. PDAC will receive a copy of the regulations for the 1915(j) waiver as soon as they are available. (CMS's summary of the new waivers is attached for the committee's use.)

Sue ended her IC update by explaining a major change to IC OARs (regardless of waiver) that will be introduced in revised program rules going to hearing this spring. IC rules will clarify the use of program benefits (per CMS). The new language will not allow IC cash benefits to be used towards food, housing, or utility payments. This change may affect the program's flexibility. This change led to a mini-training for PDAC. Sue gave an overview of training and technical assistance provided to people entering IC or receiving IC benefits that briefly covered:

- Understanding program options and related benefits.
- How IC benefits are determined, calculated and must be used (to purchase goods and services to carry out service plan or to assist individual with improving/maintaining their health, safety and independence).
- Setting up IC bank accounts and savings plans.
- Identifying goals and objectives that allow person to remain in their home.
- Developing a budget using personal funds and IC benefits.

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- Keeping employer/benefit usage records.

IC emphasizes responsible control and risk management in exchange for benefit flexibility. Benefit and employer supports are provided for people in the program at no cost, upon request. IC assumes that it is in person's self-interest (or others that care like family and friends) to learn about and understand their program options so they can select services that best meet their needs. The last analysis showed 60% of IC users are seniors, and 40% are people with physical disabilities.

Adjourned (2:15 p.m.)