

Affiliation Self Determination Workgroup Meeting Minutes:

March 10, 2004

10:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Ionia CMH

Present at the meeting: Bob Clingenpeel (GCCMH), Lynne Jones (ICCMH), Julie Dowling (ICCMH), Judy Scott (ICCMH), Mary Ellen Papes (NCMH), Carolyn Hilley (GCCMH), George Ott (MBCMH), Ingemar Johansson (MBCMH), April Fitzpatrick (MBCMH), Michael Brashears (CEICMH), Pamela Stants (CEICMH), Tom Knudtson (CEICMH), and Kim Zimmerman (Affiliation)

Absent: Meeting Minutes: Bea Stevens (NCMH), and Dan Alonzi (GCCMH)

The meeting minutes from February 2004 were approved without revisions.

Dave Short:

Dave Short met with our workgroup today to discuss issues related to implementation of Self Determination.

The following issues were discussed and information given based on Dave Short's views and opinions:

Dave's views of SD:

- Requirement of medical necessity has a large impact on SD (limits flexibility)
- There are lots of restrictions on use of federal and state money
- Medicaid savings were supposed to be decategorized to be more flexible and this did not happen....cannot use to purchase vehicles, vacations, etc...
- Supplies/equipment/modifications must be depreciated now
- New Chapter III will better define alternative services
- Now must include scope, duration, and intensity (this narrows down budget)
- Home Help Program: The changes go against SD....CMH cannot subsidize or "due in lieu of" FIA for home help services (this has a major impact for people living independently)
- Transportation is no longer as flexible...has to be tied to approved services (another major impact on SD) (tokens for transportation is not allowable unless for approved service) (limitations in transportation do not support community integration)

Dave's views on FI's:

- Often CMH's choose one provider to contract with and this does not provide choice
- Tax issue: people with no income are being treated as the employer
- Taxes must be withheld
- CMH's often end up doing the work and then appear as employer
- Fiscal agent's role is a conflict of interest if they work for both sides....they are an agent of the board and the CMH retains the liability
- Medicare Program definition of an FI is someone who makes the payments
- In Dave's opinion, the CMH can act as the FI
- Dave does not feel we would be in a material breach of contract if we choose not to provide FI option
- Currently FI's are receiving approximately \$250/month (\$6000/annually) with a one time \$3000 set up fee
- SSA states that a consumer cannot use fiscal agent for their funds

- Dave feels we should ask Board Association to hold CMH Boards harmless if requiring use of FI's
- DCH's contract models are not sufficient

Dave's views on Individual Budgets:

- Cannot keep savings individually
- Midland CMH sets up individual budget accounts per person
- Indirect costs of administration throws off individual budgets
- Any budget is just an estimate (set based mainly on scope, duration, and intensity)
- Don't try to make accounts balance based off budgets....they are just estimates
- Should not be part of CMH ledger system
- To complete budgets you must need to know: scope, duration, intensity, and rates

Dave's views on consumer as employer of record/direct purchaser of services:

- Insurance will be an issue for the consumers to get
- Employer of record has never been dealt with at a risk level
- Commercial/general liability, workers comp. and employer liability insurance are needed.....if dealing with professionals, then professional liability insurance is also needed
- Consumer are not going to be able to get this type of insurance or afford it
- Home owners insurance will not cover the consumer
- CMH Boards cannot, by law, cover individuals/providers under our insurance
- FIA/Home Help does not offer insurance and no workers comp.

Meeting with Allegan CMH Representative: Ingemar has made arrangements for Beth Durkee to attend our May 12th meeting to discuss how Allegan is implementing Self Determination. The meeting location was moved to Ionia CMH so that Beth would not have as far to drive.

Pam Werner/Mike Head/Tom Renwick meeting: Kim Zimmerman informed everyone that both Mike Head and Pam Werner have confirmed that they will be attending our April 14th meeting to discuss our concerns/issues. Tom Renwick has not yet confirmed, but Pam Werner will talk with him about attending. Kim reminded everyone to continue to send any further topics for discussion to her as she will be completing an agenda within the next 2 weeks. ***The deadline for getting issues to Kim is March 19th.***

Next Meeting Agenda: Group members are to send agenda items to Kim.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at CEI CMH on April 14, 2004 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Mike Head and Pam Werner will be our guests. The Affiliation CEO's will also be in attendance.

