

DAIL Advisory Board
January 12, 2012
Conference Call

Participants

Board Members: Janet Cramer, Max Barrows, Susan Gordon, Joellen Valley, Nancy Breidan, Harriet Goodwin, Sarah Launderville, Steve Pouliot, Diane Novak

State Employees: Susan Wehry, Camille George, Lisa Parro

Guests: Jeff Coy, Sheila Burnham

Board Member Updates

Five buildings at Melrose Terrace in Brattleboro remain unrepaired from Tropical Storm Irene and are waiting for FEMA. The plans to renovate Hayes Court have been put on hold, and a combination housing area involving Hayes Court, Melrose Terrace and a trailer park is being considered. Some major decisions on how to proceed will be made in the next year, and those involved in planning will be looking for support and guidance from DAIL.

Disability Awareness Day is March 21st at the Statehouse. There will be events and activities all day, such as listening to hearings, giving input to legislators, and giving input about any concerns with the budget. Participants will be working on all of the VCDR platform issues.

Central Vermont Council on Aging will be offering a training series for caregivers, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, starting in February. If anyone knows of a caregiver who would like to attend, have them contact Jeanne Kern, 476-2671.

Alzheimer's Awareness Day is January 20th. The Governor's Commission on Alzheimers Disease and other Related Disorders (ARD) will be in the Card Room at the Statehouse. Artwork from people with dementia will be displayed, Christina Cosgrove from the Commission will give the devotion, there will be informational materials available, and the Commission is working to recruit a family caregiver to speak.

The Developmental Disabilities Council will be in the Card Room at the Statehouse on February 2nd, and they will also meet with legislators. At 4:00 there will be a reception in the Cedar Creek Room, where some members will be giving presentations.

Diane Novak is hearing about issues with modernization with calls not going through or not being answered. The board is requesting a written update on the modernization project, and they would like to invite Richard Giddings to a future advisory meeting.

Commissioner Updates

The SFY 13 Budget Address by the Governor is this afternoon.

In the FY12 Budget Adjustment, DAIL is requesting a buy back the reduction in Independent Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) in the Attendant Services Program.

DAIL Staff Changes: Suzanne Leavitt is the new Division of Licensing and Protection (DLP) Director. Fran Keeler will be focusing on survey and certification, particularly implementing changes in Affordable Care Act, as well as supporting Department of Mental Health's licensing efforts as they seek alternative sites for treatment of the State Hospital patients who were displaced as a result of Irene. Chuck Bruder has joined the Division of Disability and Aging Services (DDAS) as the Assistant Division Director of Developmental Services. Linda Martinez has joined the DDAS team as the Money Follows the Person Project Director.

DAIL will be looking at the relationship of Long Term Care (LTC) services and supports to health care reform. Probably the biggest involvement of late is the project to serve people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

CMS Innovation Grant, Better Care Better Health, has 1 billion dollars to distribute across the country for programs that can lower cost while building the workforce system. The program or project must be 'shovel ready', can show early success, and be sustainable. The state has set criteria for supporting these projects: they have to show alignment with state health reform, with person-centered LTC system, have clear indicators of early success, and have a clear financial plan with sustainability. Requests for support letters from the State are due 1/20; Applications are due to CMS 1/27. Anyone interested in collaborating should contact the project leads this week. Funding decisions are expected to be announced in March.

There are two applications of particular interest that have been submitted for the Innovation Grants: Leading Age, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Designated Agencies (Das) are proposing to implement evidence-based interventions focused on mental health and family caregivers; and University of Massachusetts Medical Center and Vermont Health Care Association (and perhaps others) to roll out a curriculum (OASIS) to reduce use of antipsychotics and introduce culture change in facilities.

Commissioner Wehry attended a recent Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) celebration for exceeding the goal of 1,500 rehabilitations.

On January 30th, from 2:00 – 4:00, DAIL former Waterbury offices are having an open house at their 3 new buildings in Williston.

A lawsuit was filed against DAIL's Adult Protective Services Program (APS). Barbara Prine from Vermont Legal Aid has requested time to meet with DAIL Advisory Board members to answer any questions related to the suit that they filed. This will be added to the February meeting agenda. Commissioner Wehry provided the following brief update: APS has caught up on the backlog of cases from last spring; APS currently has 10 permanent full-time investigators; Liz Manfredi has decided to return to an APS Investigator position, so APS will be recruiting for a new APS Program Chief; A consultant from the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) has been in town all week and DAIL is looking forward to reviewing her recommendations; Fred Jones, from the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is working with APS 1 day/week to help develop materials for a new

Financial Exploitation unit, which will also focus on exploitation.; and because of the litigation, the APS Advisory Committee has been disbanded.

The Commissioner would like a subcommittee of the DAIL Advisory Board to advise the Department regarding the prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults in Vermont. One of the first tasks for subcommittee will be to review the national consultant's report and make recommendations about APS. Members who are plaintiffs or the attorney for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit are not eligible to serve on the committee. Peter Cobb, JoEllen Valley, Janet Cramer, Harriet Goodwin, Diane Novak, and Rachel Cummings have volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. The frequency, length, and structure of the subcommittee meetings are to be determined by the committee, however, the first meeting should be 2 hours and could be held on the same day as the DAIL Advisory Board. The meetings will start after DAIL has received the report from the consultant.

DAIL Advisory Board Operating Procedures:

Harriet Goodwin moved to approve the DAIL Operating Procedures, with the clarifying changes: Anything requiring a vote or a large discussion must be sent ahead of time or must be read aloud at the meeting; and meetings are to be held at a Central Vermont location. This was approved by the rest of the board.

Other Business:

The agenda items from the January DAIL Advisory Board meeting will be moved to the February meeting.