

PRESENT: Edward Berghorst, Mark Bombara, Joyce Kortman, Kristine Nale, James McDowall, Veronica Persenaire, Harris Schipper, Kellye Slaggert, Lucile Van Koevering, Cornelius Vander Kam, Fred Vander Laan, Steve Waters

STAFF: Gerry Cyranowski, Sue Buist, Greg Hofman, Pam Pekelder, Gloria Pelon

OTHERS: Greg Rappleye

CALL TO ORDER - Board Chairperson

Fred Vander Laan, Chairperson called the October 21, 2002 Special Board meeting to order at 1:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 23, 2002

CMH 03-001 Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 23, 2002 meeting.

Moved by: Schipper

Supported by: Bombara

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA of October 21, 2002

CMH 03-002 Motion: To approve the agenda for October 21, 2002.

Moved by: Persenaire

Supported by: Van Koevering

MOTION CARRIED

1

DISCUSSION: CHANGES RELATIVE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED SERVICES

Mr. Cyranowski stated that, first and foremost, he wanted to apologize to Board members for any feelings of not being well informed regarding the issues relative to changes to developmentally disabled services. He stated that in the future he will take all steps to increase communication with the Board.

Mr. Vander Laan noted that Mr. Cyranowski will meet with interested Ottawa County Commissioners to educate them on the issues. This will take place prior to the November 12, 2002 Commissioner's Meeting.

Mr. Cyranowski went on to explain that letters were sent to consumers and guardians inviting them to informational meetings with regard to the upcoming changes in developmentally disabled services. He explained the intent of the changes is to move services currently provided at three CMH locations, and instead, provide these services in the community. Among other things, this may include respite services, supported employment, skill building and any other services that promote community inclusion and are allowable using Medicaid dollars.

He emphasized that CMH needs to look at each individual; looking at their needs and wants through the Person Centered Planning (PCP) process. Mr. Waters emphasized that CMH needs to look at all community resources.

Mr. Cyranowski noted that some reports in the local newspapers are inaccurate. He went on to say that CMH has been working with Kandu for three years in an effort for them to make changes in their service array to meet Chapter 3 Medicaid guidelines. If Kandu is successful, CMH will be continuing to contract with them. The challenge for Kandu is for their management team and Board to work with CMH to meet the Chapter 3 Medicaid guidelines.

Ms. Nale stated that the PCP process can meet consumers' needs. She noted that she is a certified PCP trainer. She stated that, in her opinion, Ottawa County is doing PCP correctly. She said that CMH staff have been trained. Ms. Nale went on to say that it is time for the CMH Board to do whatever they can to assure that PCP is done correctly in this county.

Mr. Cyranowski stated that in his initial presentation to consumers, family members and guardians it was discussed how site based services would be moved to the community. This would be specified through each individual PCP. He stated that CMH will take whatever time it takes to get the job completed appropriately.

Mr. Cyranowski described the driving forces for this change as:

- MDCH Contract - best practice, community inclusion
- Performance Indicators - CMH is evaluated on supported employment, number of consumers making minimum wage, number of consumers working 10 hours or more, number of consumers working at least 6 months in duration. He noted that Ottawa has lagged behind others in the state.
- PCP/Self Determination
- Medicaid Chapter 3 - federal guidelines specify Medicaid covered services. CMH needs to show increase in abilities - services must show progress.

Mr. Cyranowski noted that Ottawa County is well funded with Medicaid dollars, but CMH must use those dollars wisely, following Chapter 3 guidelines.

Mr. Mc Dowall expressed his concern regarding not being well informed of these changes, referring to several Board and Sub Committee Minutes. Mr. Mc Dowall commented that the Board needs to have philosophy for why we are doing things. Ms. Kortman noted that perhaps the Board does not understand its role; stating that the Board may have some homework to do. Ms. Persenaire recommended this issue be revisited sometime in the future.

Mr. Vander Laan stated that this Board is here for one common cause - best services for our consumers.

Ms. Persenaire stated that the next step is to clearly present our plan. She recommended that at future public meetings providing concrete information, with presentations from other counties that have been successful in making this change. Ms. Slaggert commented that other communities have made this transition and it has been successful. She agreed that perhaps one of these successful agencies could make a presentation to the public.

Ms. Kortman stated she had a copy of the expected contract with MDCH, which she obtained at the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Board's fall conference held in Traverse City last week. She suggested Board members read this. She went on to say that if CMH's funding source dictates what services we can provide, CMH will have to abide by it.

Mr. Cyranowski noted that the Chapter 3 Medicaid Rules were not included in this copy of the contract with MDCH; noting MDCH is currently rewriting the Chapter.

Mr. Vander Laan questioned if Board members felt prepared to answer questions as to the direction of services to the developmentally disabled. Ms. Kortman commented that we should proceed cautiously, watching the process and measuring its success. Mr. Vander Kam requested written talking points, clearly stating what steps are being taken. Mr. Cyranowski stated that he will follow through with this request.

Mr. Vander Laan emphasized the importance of the Board being united. Ms. Persenaire suggested creating a visual, so the public can visually see where we are going.

Mr. Cyranowski stated that notes were taken at all the meetings with consumers, family members, guardians and providers. All the questions and answers are being compiled and typed. When completed, they will be sent to consumers, family members, guardians and providers. Mr. Cyranowski stated that he will also have them sent to all Board members.

Mr. Cyranowski stated that a meeting will be scheduled for the public within a few weeks. Ms. Persenaire requested that a copy of the agenda be sent to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda VanOpynen, Co-Director, ARC/Advocacy & Resource Center commented that ARC embraces PCP and self determination. She stated that it can work in time, she cautioned the time frame of one year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Vander Laan stated that Board members will be notified by mail if the October 28, 2002 CMH Board Meeting will be held as scheduled.

Mr. Vander Laan stated that the Executive Committee recommended holding the December 23, 2002 CMH Board Meeting; with the meeting scheduled from 12:30pm to 1:00pm and then a Christmas Open House for CMH Staff from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Mr. Cyranowski will assure CMH staff are notified and

Ms. Pelon will take charge of the Open House details. Mr. Vander Laan stated that donations from the Board will be requested to cover expenses for the Open House.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Vander Laan adjourned the October 21, 2002 Special Board meeting at 2:43pm.

Fred Vander Laan, Chairperson Edward Berghorst, Secretary