

Members

Rep. Dennie Oxley
Rep. Vanessa Summers
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Sen. Kent Adams
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Hugh Beebe
Mike Carmin
Nan Daley
Susan Hansen
Herbert Grulke
John Taylor



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Eliza Houston, Attorney for the Committee
Chris Baker, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 12-11-7

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 3, 2004
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Dennie Oxley; Rep. Vanessa Summers; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Connie Sipes; Susan Hansen; Herbert Grulke; Sen. Allie Craycraft.

Members Absent: Hugh Beebe; Mike Carmin; Nan Daley; John Taylor.

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair, called the first meeting of the Indiana Commission on Autism to order at 1:10 p.m. She set the next meeting date for September 8, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

The Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services, The Autism Waiver, and Group Homes for Children

Ms. Carmela Barrett-Officer, Director of the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services, the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS), Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA), updated the Commission on DDARS, and reported on both the Autism waiver and group homes for children. She distributed a handout on the matters she discussed during her presentation.²

I. The Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Ms. Barrett-Officer discussed the number of people currently being served on the Autism waiver, the Developmental Disability (DD) waiver, and the Support Services waiver, and the number of individuals currently on the waiting lists for these waivers. She also stated that the total cost to Indiana to serve all the individuals on these waiting lists is \$412M. However, she added that individuals could be on more than one waiting list.

Ms. Barrett-Officer noted that the prevalence of crisis or emergency cases is impacting the DDARS budget deficit. For federal fiscal year 2004, DDARS spent approximately \$7.4M in state funds to place people in crisis on the DD waiver and \$2.7M in state funds on crisis placements for individuals who did not qualify for waiver services. She further indicated that W198 issues continue to have a significant impact on FSSA funding. She stated that FSSA and the Indiana Department of Health managers will begin meeting monthly to discuss the W198 issue and other issues that affect both agencies. In responding to questions from the members, Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that there are several categories of crisis or emergency cases.

In addition, Ms. Barrett-Officer indicated that DDARS plans to more aggressively approach cost containment strategies on the three waivers because of the deficit, prevalence of crisis cases, W198s, and the waiting lists. She noted that one strategy in attempting to better serve Hoosiers is the Matrix project, which will revolutionize ways funds are distributed by basing an individual's funding on an independent assessment of the individual's needs. She described the Matrix project, stating that the project must be budget neutral. The goal is to have the project implemented by June 2005.

Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that DDARS has increased efficiency through the Central Enrollment Unit. She also discussed the role of case managers and the concerns related to case management, including certification, training, and conflicts of interest. DDARS has conducted a survey of existing case managers and will use the information collected to update certification and training requirements. Ms. Barrett-Officer discussed the potential for conflict of interest in case management noted by the Indiana State Board of Accounts and CMS (the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). To address the perceived conflict of interest, DDARS is requiring all individuals on the DD waivers and Autism waivers to have case managers who are independent from their residential providers by July 30, 2004. In addition, DDARS has posted a Request for Information to assist in designing and implementing the most cost-effective case management delivery system. In responding to questions from members, Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that there was a conflict of interest, and abuses by case managers have occurred. She further indicated that many of the calls concerning abuses by case managers were anonymous, which limits state action.

² Exhibit 1

Ms. Barrett-Officer set forth FSSA's priorities in: (1) ensuring seniors and people with disabilities and the disadvantaged have the independence and support they deserve; (2) ensuring the health and safety of individuals transitioning from state developmental centers into community-based settings; and (3) enhancing the quality of life and quality of place for all Hoosiers.

In response to questions from members, Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that individuals leaving state institutions could get services from group homes or through the waiver process.

II. Autism Waiver

Ms. Barrett-Officer provided a report on the status of the Autism waiver.³ The report sets forth the number of applicants targeted by the Autism Waiver Specialist, the number of Initial Cost Comparison Budgets pending approval, the number of individuals currently appealing Level of Care denials, and the number of clients currently on the Autism waiting list.

Bill Green, the Director of the Bureau for Fiscal Services, DDARS, FSSA, in responding to questions from members, indicated that there had not been a reversion of waiver money. He stated that there was a deficit of approximately \$20M in spending the last fiscal year. He further noted that administrative costs were \$10M. Rep. Summers indicated that the Autism waiver appears to be null and void because waiver slots are not being filled with individuals on the Autism waiting list.

III. Group Homes for Children

Ms. Barrett-Officer indicated that there are 27 group homes for children in Indiana. Eleven vacancies currently exist in these group homes. In responding to questions from members, Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that DDARS has been trying to close the gap on the number of individuals waiting for vacant slots in group homes. She further noted that until the deficit is covered, DDARS cannot allocate any additional resources to provide services.

In response to questions from members about funding for individuals who leave state institutions, Ms. Barrett-Officer stated that individuals' funding follows them from institutionalized care to other care facilities.

Cost Containment Measures

Mr. Green provided information on cost containment measures. He listed the cost containment measures that were implemented on April 1, 2004. He added that the Exception Review Team was developed to review budgets that are outside of the guidelines established for cost containment. Mr. Green also indicated that the DDARS budget is projecting a deficit of approximately \$38M in the Residential Account for FY05. However, he added that the projected deficit of \$38M does not take into account the cost containment efforts. He noted that the reason the deficit has grown is due to a combination of popularity of services, the length of time the individuals have been on services, the addition of case management as a service, and the addition of person centered planning services, as well as the justifications for additional services. He concluded that DDARS must eliminate any non-essential services.

In response to questions by members, Mr. Green stated that there are currently 400

³Exhibit 2

Autism waiver slots approved by the federal government, but because of the deficit, a certain number are not being used.

Rep. Alderman requested information from DDARs about the funds being saved by moving individuals from state institutions to waivers for community-based care. He requested information on the amount of funds being saved and for what purpose the funds are being used.

Adjourn

Rep. Summers adjourned the meeting at 2:57 P.M.