



**North Carolina Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project
Roundtable Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2011
9:00 – 4:00
Hal Marshall Building
Charlotte, NC**

Participants:

Maria Ballard	LaVerne Blue	Denise Bordeman
Karen Carlton	Denise Derkowski	Renee' Dutcher
Trish Farnham	Tonya Goforth	Peri Gordon-Flohr
Michelle Harvey	Sharisse Johnson	Hillary Kaylor
Sandra Kell	Linda Kendall Fields	Luanne Kirkland
Anita Ledford	Libby Lewis	Jennifer Link
Donna Lovill	Mary McDonald	Tonya Moore
Karen B. Murphy	Kevin Nale	Darlene Norton
Maryann Osorio	Dee Pankey	Natarsa Patillo
Jeff Payne	Ellen Perry	Margaret Rakestraw
Bob Rickelman	Julia Sain	Teri Saltzman
Tonda Stillwell	David Taylor	Diane Upshaw
Laura Wasson	Nichole Watson	Latoya Wise

Welcome & Introductions

Trish introduced the new Administrative coordinator for the Program, Diane Upshaw.

Group did round of introductions.

Reflections from November's meeting (meeting notes attached)

Linda asked everyone to review the minutes from the last meeting. David Taylor stated that everyone at the meeting needs to work to get everyone in group homes out. Jeff Payne stated that it was great to hear from the last meeting that people are able to push against state practices and able to get people back in the community.

Project Updates provided by Trish Farnham (see attached handout)

- Successes – the program has transitioned 74 people and 78 unofficially and has been extended to 2019
- Lessons Learned
- Transition Update
- Housing Update

- Operational Protocol Updates –See handout. This is a living document and more changes are on the way. If you have suggested changes please email them to Diane Upshaw at diane.upshaw@dhhs.nc.gov. The OP will be update quarterly and a complete revision will be done in 2012.
- Long-term Strategic Update - Trish reported that DHHS leadership is considering how to best organize/reconvene an advisory committee that guides DHHS' strategic decisions about long-term care in NC. To date, DMA does not have any additional information about the status of this committee. Trish will provide additional information as it becomes available.
- Other
 - Benchmark update – original benchmark timeframes have been revised but benchmark commitment has been expanded and will continue to increase over course of Project.
 - Adult Care Homes – Currently people cannot transition out of assisted living homes. As codified in Section 6071 (b)(6) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, MFP allows for eligible participants to transition from qualified facilities into a qualified residence in their communities. To date, there has been no change in the federal qualified residence definition
 - LCA/MDS 3.0 Section Q update – a lot of interest and confusion was expressed about how MFP and CRCs intersect on MDS 3.0. A brief explanation was given, but due to the demands of the agenda, limitations were placed on the time allotted to the discussion. Participants are welcomed to join in monthly calls set up by The NC Office of Long Term Services and Supports (OLTS) on the third Tuesday of each month, (9:00am – 10:00am) where the focus will be solely on this subject.
 - Group briefly discussed MFP’s federal exclusion of psychiatric hospitals for individual between 22 and 65.

Troubleshooting: How Can We Help Effectively Support Self-Advocates and Families to Participate?

Discussion about making the Roundtable meetings more inclusive for self-advocates and family members resulted in the following list of suggestions:

- Provide enough time to read information before the meeting – allow at least one week to process
- Use simpler language – both written (include pictures) and verbal during meetings
- Professional jargon is difficult for consumers and family members – might there be two different agendas?
- Provide information about the technical aspects of the Project through webinars and/or mini-trainings

- Record the meeting – provide synopsis and different formats for access
- Before and after the meeting, pair consumers and families in mentoring relationships so that there is support from those more experienced with the project to those who are new.
- Include an agenda item specifically for self-advocates and families
- Consider a self-advocate/family sub-committee
- Provide a simple brochure – review existing materials for simplicity
- Do not include too much information – separate out the information to send to participants ahead of time and keep updates to a minimum.
- Include success stories from each target audience
- “Map” the functions/roles of participants according to their place in the MFP process.
- Put together “Frequently Asked Questions” document
- Bring people/consumers from the region where the Roundtable is being held; make targeted invitations, including telephone calls.

Discussion of 2011 Project Priorities (see attached handout)

Participants were asked to focus on the “Immediate Priorities” for this calendar year. Comments about the six items listed on the handout included:

- Under # 1, “Ensuring the quality of the transition process...” change the second bullet point to “advanced funding.” Add the bullet point “use of peer support.”
- Under # 3, “Expanding the Project,” spell out the “B/C Waiver” to explain it as the Piedmont Behavioral Health and Western Highlands waiver. Add “media/enhanced resources” next to “continued outreach.”
- Under # 4, Consider changing the language to reflect more direction and connection to the CRCs – “supporting the development” is not strong enough.

Participants also offered three additional priority items:

- “Link conversations with providers and Consumer/Family Advisory Councils”
- “Continue to eliminate barriers in legislation and policies.”
- “Be actively involved in the rewriting of the CAP – MR/DD waiver.”

ASK THE QUESTIONS, SEEK THE ANSWERS: The Year of Organizing and Developing Data

Trish provided an overview of the afternoon’s agenda and noted that by the end of the day, the Project hoped to recruit members to an adhoc group (i.e. Data Advisory Group) that will guide the learning for the year based on data collected and develop tools for more data collection. The larger Roundtable will lay the groundwork for this smaller group.

Our Structure for Learning

- Asking Questions and Collecting Answers:
 - That Help MFP Improve Its Current Practices
 - That Help Determine the Use of MFP's Rebalancing Fund
 - That Inform our State's Vision and Direction for Long-Term Supports
- Tying all data back to MFP's Four Objectives (posted on the wall during the meeting)
- Collecting and Synthesizing Existing Data
- Learning from Other States
- Collecting both Qualitative and Quantitative Data

Overview of the MFP Rebalancing Fund – (see attached handout)

- **What it Is**
 - How it's calculated
 - Amount to Date

- **How to Develop Strategy for its Use**
 - Review MFP GAP analysis
 - Possibly use former studies
 - Collaborating with others
 - Survey of MFP stakeholders/community

Discussion of the MFP Rebalancing Fund: What is the best use of a non-reoccurring fund that reflects MFP's objectives and has a measurable and positive impact on North Carolina's home and community-based services?

- **Ideas to Date (provided before the meeting)**
 - Infrastructure building
 - Additional waiver slots
 - Family support
 - Create public/private foundation
 - Provides resources not otherwise covered
 - Seed money for innovation, etc.

- **Brainstorming with participants during the meeting about how rebalancing funds can be used:**
 - Give money to the DD Council so that they can build Peer-to-Peer Support Program
 - Use for MFP participants beyond the "allowable" expenses
 - Increase start-up funds
 - Scholarships for many uses (e.g. trainings and conferences)
 - Establish formal way to link roommates
 - Redirect money back to more housing vouchers.
 - Down payments for mortgages
 - Recreational fund for participants the year they come out so they can connect to the community

- Setting up community foundation to which others can contribute (NASCAR could be a contributor!) Simple application process. SEVERAL supportive of this idea! First in Families already has infrastructure for such a foundation.
- Transportation needs
- Wheelchairs/wheelchair lifts – use money to get past barriers to equipment.
- Give money to CAP-DA side to provide more resources – bridge \$
- Technology devices, (e.g. Skype) training and technical assistance. (Check out resources such as “Elder Locator”)
- “Smart Homes” like “Simply Home” – computer/video monitoring systems
- Respite for families
- When people are hospitalized, someone there to advocate for them and provide training to hospital staff.
- Provide medical/behavioral supports in the community
- Build the workforce – medical staff/direct care staff/case/care managers. Pay for staff to go through “College for Direct Support.”
- \$ to NC START to build capacity (bricks and mortar as well as staff).
- Provide support for those with severe and persistent mental illness
- Build community capacity (PERIOD!).
 - Supplement initiatives already happening
 - Partners in Justice
- Send out RFP for grant awards
- Facilitate conversion of ICF/MRs to community; NC Fast/ICF/MR staff conversion to community transition effort
- Address the huge Medicaid barrier of personal spend-down/deductibles.
- Pay a person to remove legislative/rule barriers
- Create an annual gathering of MFP recipients to celebrate and provide ongoing education about life skills, other topics.

INFORMING THE FUTURE: What Do We Want to Know?

An Overview of What We Already Collect: Natarsa (see attached handout)

Brainstorming: As a stakeholder and a taxpayer, what information is important know about:

- MFP participants and practices (first priority)
- Medicaid Long-Term Care Services? (second priority)
- NC’s Long-term care supports outside of Medicaid (third priority)

Participants worked in pairs to answer the question “What information is important to know about MFP participants and practices?” The second and third priorities (i.e. Medicaid Long-Term Care Services and NC’s Long-term care supports outside of Medicaid) will be addressed during a future meeting.

Pairs shared their ideas with the rest of the Roundtable and each idea for data collection was categorized, prioritized by the group, and placed on a table under the headings “Critical to Know,” “Good to Know,” and “Nice to Know.” The results are as follows – all comments included:

Critical	Good	Nice
<p><u>Barriers/Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Challenges and barriers for participants” ▪ “Status of barriers for persons with physical disabilities” ▪ “Discuss problems others have had with transitions” ▪ “CAP/DA budget restraints” ▪ “Of the number of people referred to MFP, who gets help; who are denied” ▪ “What are the issues that got people there in the first place? Why do families choose to keep the person there?” ▪ “What is the number 1 barrier for people not getting out of institutions?” 	<p><u>Census of DD Centers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Census of Developmental Centers/ICF GH – how have they changed as a result of MFP?” ▪ “Who is in institutions? List of names and reason in ICF-MR” ▪ “Number of facilities closed or downsized as a result of MFP.” ▪ “Close beds after the people get out and use them for programs like NC Start.” 	<p><u>Referral Patterns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Did MFP referral come from same provider of new community services?”
<p><u>Costs/Savings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Cost of supporting a person to live in the community vs. the facility” ▪ “How much \$ is saved with MFP?” ▪ “Assisted Living - \$60,000 – 100,000/year. In-home care - \$6000– 10,000/year. Redirect \$ to caregivers.” ▪ “How much does MFP save?” 	<p><u>Demographics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Breakdown or demographics of recipients.” ▪ “Demographic information around race of those in institutions compared to general population. Breakdown and then use data to 	<p><u>Geographic Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Which counties are most/best informed about MFP?” ▪ “More progress (i.e. successful transitions) in rural or in urban areas?”

Critical	Good	Nice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Breakdown of how funds were used?” ▪ “How much did MFP save the state in costs over the last year/quarter/history?” 	<p>ensure MFP is reaching out to all races/ethnicities.”</p>	
<p><u>Community Involvement/Engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Are they involved in a self-advocate group?” ▪ “Use of peer support” ▪ “Real jobs or volunteer jobs” ▪ “Recreational” ▪ “What do people do during the day when they don’t have a job?” ▪ “Track community connections of participants to subjectively measure outcomes (i.e. volunteer work, employment, activities, friends, non-paid people)” 	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Transportation” ▪ “How do they get around?” 	<p><u>Knowledge about Self-Determination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “How many people know about self-determination?”
<p><u>Success Stories</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Success stories – more!” ▪ “Which diagnoses have found more success in transitioning?” 		
<p><u>Feedback Evaluation (Between Critical and Good)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Gather feedback from all involved in transition process – institutional staff, family, transition coordinator.” 		
<p><u>Housing (Between Good and Critical)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “How many people with disabilities are waiting for Section 8?” ▪ “How many people getting out became homeowners?” 		

WANT TO HELP?

Who Is Interested in Helping the Project on Data this Year? (Sign-up sheet was passed around)

- Meet with MFP technical advisors about Data Collection
- Advise the Project on survey tools, structure, etc.
- Participate in Meetings with QEHO about Data Organization

- Help tweak timeframes (including working with policy folks to determine questions/timelines for talking to legislators)
- Connecting with other states.

Time Commitments

- Propose: monthly meetings for one year.
- Schedule first meeting at the end of the day's meeting.

FINAL THOUGHTS

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, MAY 13th, 2011

- Fayetteville, NC
- Hoping to have video conferencing option