

NC Stakeholder Engagement Group Meeting

September 18th, 2014

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Triangle Town Center

Present: Ron Reeve (Co-Chair), Nessie Siler, Sam Miller, Jean Anderson, Jonathan Ellis, Matt Potter, Anna Cunningham

Guests: Emery Cowan, Eric Fox, Sandy Ellsworth, Chris Egan, Leah Smith, Annaliese Dolph, Beth Stalvey, Holly Riddle

Staff: Chris Egan, Steve Strom, Lorraine Woodward, Kelly Friedlander

1. Introductions & Review of Agenda

Kelly Friedlander welcomed SEG members, staff, and guests. Everyone introduced him or herself and gave background information on their experience and why they are involved in the NC SEG. The agenda for the day was reviewed.

2. System Update: Legislative Session Review

Annaliese Dolph, Esq, Lobbyist for Disability Rights NC, provided members with a legislative session review. She discussed issues outside of the Department of Health & Human Services first, reviewing teacher salary increases, funding for education in PRTFs, and the autism insurance legislation.

Ms. Dolph then reviewed some important budgetary changes outside of Medicaid. These changes included:

- \$16 million Flexibility Cut across DHHS.
- \$2 mil for continued short-term assistance for group home residents.
- \$10 mil reduction for Early Intervention / CDSAs
- \$1.8 mil reduction to LME/MCO administration through projected savings from consolidation.
- \$2.2 mil for community-based crisis services.

Ms. Dolph then discussed legislative news related to Medicaid and Medicaid Reform. The NC House and the Senate were unable to reconcile their different proposals for Medicaid Reform. The Senate proposed a separate Medicaid agency outside of DHHS and allowed private managed care organizations; the House proposed continuing the current agency structure and public Accountable Care Organizations.

To read more about Medicaid Reform and see details from Ms. Dolph's presentation, materials can be downloaded at <http://www.ncseg.com/stakeholder-tools.html>.

The presentation concluded with an overview of current political processes currently happening. Ms. Dolph discussed the Legislative Oversight Committees currently being held for the Department of Health and Human Services and Medicaid Reform/DMA Reorganization.

3. SEG Update

Kelly Friedlander, MSW, MPA, Local Facilitator for the NC SEG, gave an update on the groups accomplishments in year one and plans for year two.

Accomplishments of year one included:

- The production of Outcome & Expectations for Managed Long Term Services & Supports report.
- The report was shared widely, including to:
 - Medicaid Reform Advisory Group;
 - North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Oversight; Committees on Health and Human Services;
 - Leaders at the LME/MCO level, and;
 - Local consumer advocacy and constituent groups.
- The report and a letter were sent to the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Aldona Wos, M.D.
- SEG Members Matthew Potter and Michael Mayer both spoke at the January Medicaid Reform Advisory Committee Meeting and were quoted in news reports on the event.
- The SEG was mentioned in the Medicaid Reform Legislative Report.

Plans for year two include:

- Increasing reach of the Outcome & Expectations for Managed Long Term Services & Supports report through various forms of communication, including:
 - Development of a new website
 - Social media sites
 - Presentations in the community
 - Training and coordination of SEG members to discuss report with other stakeholders and elected officials

Ms. Friedlander then reviewed the variety of legislative and systems activities that made this an opportune time to influence the system.

Activities reviewed included:

- I/DD Listening Sessions
- Joint Legislative Oversight Committees (DHHS and Medicaid Reform/DMA Reorganization)
- “C”/Innovation Waiver Stakeholder Meetings
- DHHS Waiver Advisory Committee Meetings

- Long Legislative Session starting in January 2015.

Next Ms. Friedlander discussed the objectives of the initiative for year two. In order to sustain a cross-disability, culturally diverse, and geographically representative consumer and family involvement in state and LME/MCO governance structures, the objectives of year two of the NC SEG initiative are:

1. Continuous education of SEG members' knowledge about the elements of North Carolina's health care reform initiative including rules, regulations and opportunities; the reform's relevance to services and supports for people with disabilities and families in North Carolina.
2. Increase the group's competence in communicating in a positive, proactive manner with state policy makers the benefits of implementing the SEG expectations in North Carolina
3. With priorities set by the North Carolina Department of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and input by the NCCDD, provide consultation to the Department on a range of systems reform strategies to improve services and supports for people with disabilities and their families.
4. Support the SEG members' efforts to educate cross disability and local community groups on the expectations of the SEG, and provide practical actions for community groups to use in increasing stakeholder participation and engagement with their respective groups.
5. Convene high-level policymakers and subject experts from state government and national organizations to assist in developing strategies that can advance employment and transition outcomes in NC.

NC Co-Chair, Ron Reeve, then discussed the multiple reasons why now was an important time to discuss the NC SEG identified outcome of employment. Recently there has been a variety of decisions on the federal level that promote integrate and competitive employment. That, in combination with the opportunities presented at the state level, is creating opportunities that the NC SEG should act upon. Mr. Reeve asked that NC SEG members use National Disability Employment Awareness Month as a catalyst for awareness actions surrounding the NC SEG outcome of competitive and integrated employment.

4. Systems Update: Employment Policy Review

Beth Stalvey, MPH, Ph.D., Policy Analyst for the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, presented an update on employment policy in NC and the nation. She began by reviewing some of the data on disability and employment, including statistics and a review of the historical shift of the service system.

Next, Dr. Stalvey reviewed the various federal employment policies that relate to employment of individuals with disabilities. These included:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Executive Order 13548
- Section 503 of Rehabilitation Act
- National Governor's Association: A Better Bottom Line
- Home and Community Based Settings – HCBS Rules
- Americans With Disabilities Act

Then, the resources and organizations promoting competitive and integrated employment in NC were discussed. These include:

- NC Employment First Steering Committee
- NC State Employment Leadership Network
- NC Business Leadership Network
- Governor McCrory Executive Order on Equal Opportunity Employment
- NC Council on Developmental Disabilities Funded Initiatives:
 - Project SEARCH
 - Reaching The Summit of Success
 - Learning & Earning After High School

To see details from Dr. Stalvey's presentation, materials can be downloaded at <http://www.ncseg.com/stakeholder-tools.html>.

5. Outcomes & Expectations for Employment & Asset Building

The group then discussed creating one-page advocacy tools dedicated to the identified NC SEG outcomes of employment and asset development. Members brainstormed what would be necessary to realize their outcome goals. These notes will be used to finalize one-pagers during the upcoming October NC SEG meeting.

6. Next Steps

To close the meeting, all NC SEG members present committed to one or multiple "awareness activities" to complete during the month of October. They will report out on their activities at the next NC SEG Meeting.

Members were asked to complete an event feedback form prior to leaving and reminded that the next meeting would be October 24th, 2014 from 9 am – 3 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Triangle Town Center.