

A-Team Meeting  
March 26, 2013 1:00-3:00 pm  
Northwoods Inc.

Present: Jane Ellis, Andy Ellis, Jeff Aerts, April Ferry, Kathleen Hartl, Dallas Kerzan, John Kerzan, Carol Aerts, Thomas Cook

The agenda was presented and approved.  
The February minutes were presented and approved.

**Funding Updates** Jeff reported that Care Wisconsin wants to renegotiate rates. They are requesting cuts ranging from 2% to 41%. They seem to be targeting day services and some prevocational services. No rate cuts have been requested for supportive job placement. Jeff says that these cuts come on top of cuts that have already been made in the last three years. It is not sustainable. It is not possible to pass increased costs on to the consumer. Jeff will meet with Thomas Cook to plan an approach to this problem. Last time this happened he met with Care Wisconsin reps. and one of Northwoods board members. Fred Clark joined the meeting on the phone.

Penda has cut back its contract with Northwoods by 46% (\$200,000) About 50% of Northwoods funding is from government programs, and 50% from production and services provided.

### **Legislative Updates**

On March 6 several A-team members visited the Capital to lobby legislators about the budget and policies that are being proposed. They spoke to Luther Olson, Fred Clark, Keith Ripp, and John Erpenbach. Carol also talked briefly to Kitty Rhoades. Julie and April will write thank-yous to the legislators. They will also prepare an article for the newspaper.

Thomas Cook reported on several things happening with the legislature.

- ▲ The legislative joint committee on finance will hold a budget hearing in Lake Delton on April 10 from 10:00 to 6:00. It's important to request proper funding. If this doesn't happen we will lose services and providers. We need to have representatives at that hearing.
- ▲ We need to find ways to preserve choice for those with disabilities. Watch for more information about Grassroots Action Center. There will be a webinar to learn how to use it.
- ▲ Long term support of employment may move from DHS to the Dept. of Workforce Development. There is a search for sponsors to present a bill to move that idea forward.
- ▲ H.R. 831 There has not been much movement forward.
- ▲ Watch for audio files related to supported employment and center based employment.

### **Membership**

There was again a discussion about how we can expand our active membership and gain more support. It was felt that we need to continue media outreach; keeping our name and cause in the public eye. We should eventually plan other events and continue to invite legislators. Jeff agreed that Northwoods' rolling sign could be used to share messages with the public.

The next meeting will be held at Northwoods on April 23 at 3:30 to 5:30. The time has been changed in hopes of making possible for more people to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Kit Eilertson