

A-Team Meeting
April 23, 2013 3:30-5:30 pm
Northwoods Inc.

Present: Yael Kerzan, John Kerzan, Dallas Kerzan, Nancy Davis, Sara Brockley, Kathleen Hardtl, Andy Ellis, Jane Ellis, Jolene Wheeler, Rob Crothers, Wayne Jessen, Lisa Bargender, Thomas Cook, Kit Eilertson, Deana Stankey, Rep. Keith Ripp, Carol Aerts

A-Team SCW in the News – Dallas, Yael and Rob showed a video (www.wiseeye.org) of their presentations at the Joint Committee on Finance budget hearing on April 10. All Committee members were present to hear what they had to say and listened attentively. Subsequently, Luther Olson wrote a thank-you to Yael for her heartfelt testimony. Ten South Central Wisconsin A-Team members attended the hearing.

Funding Updates

- ▲ Continued cuts are resulting in loss of programs, providers, trained work force, and options. These cuts are not being handed out evenly but seem to be focused on the services that cost the most – care for significantly disabled people. These cuts have led to declines in quality of services.
- ▲ Care Wisconsin seems to be solvent and is expanding into new areas. At the same time Care Wisconsin is cutting funding to the MCOs in their core area. An A-Team SCW residential care provider shared that in 4 instances when cuts have been made to their clients, the MCO backed down when guardians became active.
- ▲ Department of Human Services (DHS) is required to review fees of the MCOs. However, consumer/provider input is rarely requested on standards for services.
- ▲ We need to ask MCOs to review the number of required nurse visits as a way to reduce costs.
- ▲ An A-Team SCW parent/guardian shared her concerns of IRIS procedure. Her IRIS representative suggested that she get 3 “bids” on various services for her child, and was pressuring this parent to accept IRIS’ offers. This parent is standing up for her child and questioning statements of her IRIS representative, as well as researching her options/rights.
- ▲ There is a need to find a way to coordinate the services of school districts, DVR, and ADRC.

Legislative Update

- ▲ Wisconsin continues to be the only state that prevents providers from being part of the team meetings that establish plans for individuals. Fred Clark is very supportive of our concern about this issue. Luther Olson is also supportive.
- ▲ There is work being done to make the Long Term Care Functional Screen (LTCFS) more reflective of a person's real abilities and deficits. Kitty Rhoades, DHS, states this as a “priority item” and is exploring adding more items to the existing LTCFS. At present, the Functional Screen is best used with frail, elderly people. It was not intended for use with those who have developmental disabilities. It is hoped that if the “improved” LTCFS accurately measures needs, funding will better reflect home and community needs.
- ▲ We must ask the governor to appoint a Task Force on Disability Employment Policies. Half of the members would come from Community Rehabilitation Programs, family members, guardians; and the other half from organizations that oppose center-based services.
- ▲ Sen. Vinehout plans to introduce a bill in Aug/Sept to address Family Care issues, including inclusion of provider in Care Management Team.
- ▲ We must continue to oppose HR-831 (skills based wages).

(continued)

General Discussion

- ^ Dallas will contact the Wis. Board for People with Developmental Disabilities to request copies of their flyer with legislators' contact information. A-Team members may get their legislators' names by visiting this link: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/pages/waml.aspx>
- ^ The Grassroots Action Center Website should be functional in mid-May.
- ^ Monthly meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The actual time of the meetings may vary. **Our next meeting is scheduled for May 28 at 1:00 – 3:00 at Northwoods.** Carol will set up a speaker from the Portage Social Security office
- ^ The A-Team brochure flyer was reviewed/approved by the group. The flyer template was created by Robin Kennedy, Opportunities, Inc., and she shared it with all seven Wisconsin A-Team groups.
- ^ It was suggested that our June meeting focus on the role of guardians in various meetings with agencies. An attempt will be made to schedule a speaker.
- ^ We now have 70 members in the A-Team SCW.