

A-Team Meeting  
August 27, 2013 3:30-5:30 pm  
Northwoods Inc.

Present: Deana Stankey, Wayne Jessen, Joel Caulum, Kari Caulum, Jolene Wheeler, Konni Roll, Kathy Gray, Kathleen Hartl, Kevin Lozada, Thomas Cook, Dallas Kerzan, John Kerzan, Yael Kerzan

Kevin Lozada, Rehabilitation for Wisconsin, gave an overview of the A-Team Grassroots Action Center website and helped members sign-up. [www.ateamwisconsin.org](http://www.ateamwisconsin.org) He showed us each page and how to access the very helpful information contained on the website. This online tool is our group's "go to" resource for all things A-Team, including meeting announcements, national, state and local legislative alerts, and other information that affects individuals with disabilities and advocacy on their behalf. The Grassroots Action Center's website design is similar to Facebook and enables members to communicate with others who have the same concerns.

### **Legislative Update by Thomas Cook**

- URGENT ... The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is planning to finalize a set of regulations that would limit the ability of states to include center-based employment as an option in person-centered plans. CMS is trying to define which programs are integrated and which are segregated with the intent or restricting the use of Medicaid funds for those labeled as "segregated." These regulations would **eliminate EMPLOYMENT AND RESIDENTIAL CHOICES!**  
**Thomas will address this red hot issue at our A-Team meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30 pm.**
- Possible move of Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation to the Dept. of Labor, credentialing of rehabilitation counselors (MS/BS), co-sponsorship of Wis. Bill LRB2690 (increase appropriation for vocational rehabilitation), encourage law makers to: accept S-1356, support amending HR 798, do NOT support HR 831.

### **General Discussion**

- Our A-Team did not receive the SPARKS Grant applied for in August.
- A table was presented summarizing the attendance/times of the last six A-Team meetings. Based on this information, a vote was taken and it was decided that 3:30 pm would be the set time of our regular monthly meetings.
- The A-Team mailing was sent to members in August.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the best way to contact our members. We only have email addresses for 80 of our 200 members. Postage for mailing is costly.
- Transportation survey for residents of Columbia County. Due date was 8/31/13
- A list of informational documents was provided. This list is available on the Grassroots Action Center website on the South Central Wisconsin page.
- Concerns were brought up about services provided by ContinuUs regarding supported care services. Teri Buros, CEO, ContinuUs is our speaker at our A-Team meeting, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm. ContinuUs was formerly Southwest Family Care Alliance.
- One member called the toll free number provided by IRIS (888-515-4747) and discovered that you have to be "enrolled" in IRIS to call this number.
- Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus have a new non-emergency medical transportation manager, Medical Transportation Management Inc. (MTM Inc.) As of August 1, 2013, MTM Inc. will replace the former transportation manager, LogistiCare, LLC. Continue to call 1-806-907-1493. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/NEMT/>