

A-Team Meeting
January 28, 2014
Northwoods Inc.

Present: Carol Aerts, Deana Stankey, Jim Stankey, Jolene Wheeler, Colleen Sengbusch, Andy Ellis, Jane Ellis, Sandra Rasching, Jerry Tice, Kit Eilertson, Thomas Cook

A discussion was presented by Thomas Cook regarding the need to support the Governor's Bottom Line Initiative.

Among our concerns are:

- There should be a full array of supports available for these people.
- The rates paid to CRPs for job training should be raised.
- Transitions from job training to employment must be structured smoothly.
- Provisions for transportation should be included
- Plans for individuals should always be person-centered

In addition, Thomas briefly shared information regarding the proposed federal rules for Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) received from the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). After a review of this very long document, it appears that nothing in the regulations rules out the opportunity for individuals to have choice as to where they receive training. Additional guidance will be coming out. We will want to continue to push for states to have flexibility to design services.

Several members commented on the responses they have received from legislators. Most of them have been very positive. The only problem noted was the lack of meaningful response from Tammy Baldwin. Carol commented that this was puzzling since Baldwin has taken a number of stands that support minority populations in the past.

There will be an opportunity for our group and others to talk to their legislators on Wednesday, February 19 regarding the current effort to develop legislation to support community employment (Day at the Capital). Talking points are being developed and will be available soon. The current plan is to meet on that day (place to be announced) at 10:00 to organize our approach, 11:00-2:00 meet with legislators, meet at 2:00 for a debriefing. Carol offered to set up visits with legislators.

The second half of our meeting was devoted to discussion of a variety of issues related to problems individuals at today's meeting are facing regarding services that they are seeking for their loved ones. Members were able to offer some ideas regarding SSI, resources for receiving dental care, and long term care. Jolene expressed the importance of getting benefits analysis for individuals who are moving into the work force.

The purpose of the A-team meeting at this time is to show support of laws and regulations that help people with disabilities in general.

An agenda item that will continue to be set is to provide time at meetings to share specific ideas, resources and expertise with our own members.

Next meeting is February 11, 2014 at 1:30-2:30. The only agenda item will be to discuss and organize our plans for visiting legislators on February 19th for Day at the Capital.