

EFM Coalition Meeting Friday, May 13, 2016

Present:

Jeanie Coltart, Lisa Soucie, Rick Langley, Kim Moody, Elaine Ecker, Rachel Dyer, Simonne Maline, Debbie Gilmer, Betsy Hopkins, Lisa Sturtevant, Jan Breton, Richard Brown, Charles Woodbury, Valerie Smith

1. Review of April Minutes – accepted the minutes

2. Kim re policy recommendations:

Review the act – remind ourselves what it says

Review compiled recommendations in documents, surveys, etc.

Re the coalition:

What happens when coalition provision of bill sunsets (Oct 16); with continuation of EFM? New legislation? Extend the three yr? Keep meeting in another capacity?

Review of Act Definitions:

Customized employment – defined slightly differently than ODEP and fed regulations. If open this law up, may want to use WIOA definition. It suffices as is though.

Define disability? Currently from Maine Human Rights Act.

First and preferred service or support. WIOA defines first and preferred for youth – another reason to reopen law?

Performance Based Contracting

OADS is doing performance based contracting. Sec 21 and 29 measures speak to expectations around providers, increasing wages, decreasing paid support.

Needs to be addressed re day services contracts? Read more broadly than just employment services?

In mental health regulations: clubhouses are receiving daily living supports sec 17 to pay for most clients in clubhouses. That part of 17, due to major overhaul, impacted by sec 17 changes – clubhouses would be adversely affected. In process of moving that service to sec 65 outpatient services.

Dick – contracts with state address employment outcomes? Must be a goal in each PCP.

Letter from EFM to state departments – ask for info re performance based contracts?

Implications for data: Lisa Mills here next week to assist in review.

Only 20 perc of people have employ goal in PCP according to survey.

Info in EIS re data on PCPs but is only a selected 5000 people.
Also 250 on bi waiver, 50 on ORC waiver

Lisa Sturtevant: maybe instead of letter, look at what is currently in contracts? Get copies. Standard contract language.
Majority of funding would need rule change to address MaineCare addit perf based measures. Not just in contract

Some funding in addressed in contract language but much real enforcement comes under MaineCare provisions, not riders.

HCBS waiver places big emphasis on employment. Covers 21, 29, 18 and 13, 65, 19. Strict requirements.

CMS maybe soon releasing reg guidance on settings ...in response to maines hcbs plan

No small group activities etc

Recent Nat Core Indicator survey found only 30 percent had employment in plan sample of 400.

Higher result for people who live on own or with families.
Only 18 percent in waiver and community based homes.

Kim: re public policy perspective.

Strategic plan developed in September.

Recommendations:

1. B state agency standards QA etc. SAMHS has new practice guidelines, policy and practice standards. Developed with assistance thru vision quest guidance.

OADS working with office of continuous quality improvement, to create dashboard with numbers across services. Yearly goals and outcome numbers, re: entering employment.

Working w internal QA team, across all waivers.

At CHOM meeting recently recommended ARC and VOR into Maine
Need to be on look-out re this, orgs with focus counter to EF principles.

OAB talking re this next week. Emphasis is opposite of employment.

All the more reason to strengthen EFM law. No SUFU rep here currently.
Maine has been recognized nationally to be leading, but coalition is incomplete.

Policy recomm: DRM's dev dis advisory council to participate in EFM work.

Supported Decision Making impacts what you get to do – guardianship is part of that.

No strong voices unless people have economic power
Connect EFM work with SDM coalition work, re employment?

3303 2 “First and Preferred Service”

Law got moved to chapter 41 –
Where is coalition in law? Not listed currently in statute.

Need to change on website – new link to statute.

If coalition not around, who monitors change that happens?

Makes sense to publicly put back in statute?

No coalition after October 2016.

HCBS waiver will force change, emphatic about employment and agencies

Recommendation re this to include in strategic plan?

Betsy: if open law re extending coalition, give people a chance to change other things? Yes, this is a risk. Risk of weakening act.

Simonne: state agencies outside coalition be involved if law didn't exist?

Mills here in June at EFM mtg. Put on agenda how to keep work going, formal or informal coalition/workgroup? She'll be helping bring everything together into a final workplan/report.

Drafting final official report to governor, legislature, and tri commissioners.

State reps able to continue here? Have on agenda for next time?

If bill, need sponsor and title before cloture. Need to recruit a sponsor and title. By September.

Sub minimum: action steps?

Debbie – like to reintroduce. Have a bill to eliminate. Numbers continuing to drop, down to 130

Jeanie – like to pursue it. With no exceptions.

Sub-minimum is going away in five years at fed level, seems to be likely. CNN investigation of AbilityOne got attention.

One provider has 78 people on certificates.

If resubmit, need sit down meetings w LCRED w people in their districts.
Need to educate.

Public outcry needed. Public awareness seems missing. Have to create it?

Focus on that? Videos, stories?

Address change in MaineCare rule? Can't pay for it? Conflict of interest – employers are MaineCare providers.

With HCBS rule, compliance required by 2019 speaks to integ, comp employment

Mainecare rule is one option. Major substantive? Would work?
If 140 people had different opportunities, would probably leave sub min.

Need career planning for them.

Do need something else in place, currently don't have it for those other 140 people.

Lisa soucie: 4 employers called re jobs, needing to fill vacancies.

Develop and promote customized employment success stories.

Transition dept group – Jim Martin group – delegating development of materials, employment on their agenda

Ask dept consider dpg as model – capacity building

Lisa – re reform of the reimbursement rate – Burns and Associates looking at rates across all services. Proposals there, yet to be implemented. Need continuity across system. Clubhouse now not seeing those rates, but is same quality of staff and service

Includes the disincentives, i.e. billing 3 times more for day hab, versus making money supporting employment 1:1.

Meld these two together for wage parity for support staff.

Make incentive for providers to support work. Pay more for more work they do, not based on receiving more support services.

Burns and Associates rates are out for public comment now. Submit coalition comments to ask for wage parity etc.? (Sec 13 17 65)

Simonne sending link for people to comment.

Report cards for schools and providers?

Business Engagement recommendations:

Lisa Sturtevant:

Used Maine Chamber contract to reach out and connect with businesses. 102 respondents to survey. Basis for recommendations

Group hasn't met, decide to carry these forward?

Maine Business Leadership Network website, continues to have Employment for ME business section. Good source for bus info.

EFM recommendation to refund business to business platform?

Website, weekly newsblasts to 5000 employers. 5 fullpage articles in impact chamber newsletter.

Maine as model employer. Consider Special appointment in Maine government ...group recomm leg to increase focus in spec appointment process?

Process not clear, needs more attention to it. Data needs? Get a baseline re numbers?

Fed contractors 503 require 7 percent? Goal to look at 503 language re identification etc. WIOA requirement.

Make recommendation re special appointment program?

Get percentage baseline currently? Identify a hiring goal to increase to.

One initiative: Hire 100 vets in 100 days – Auta Main project.

Quick turnaround, hired over 200. Chamber asked auta re nat dis employment month? What would it take to do something similar re pwd?

Conduit connecting qualified people to jobs.

Onsite videos at businesses, included business owner. Vermont VR videos, done well. Short, with clips.

Lisa Soucie has put a couple of short videos on their website

Highlight success stories across settings, mom and pops

Common videos, return on investment info.