

**ALA
PLANNING & NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 2, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Irma Canfield, Chair
Mary Hanlon-Hillis, Vice Chair
John Evans, Parliamentarian
Pam Stephens, Community Member
Cara Magrane, Community Member
Martha Moyer, Family Member
Becky Tarwater, Community Member
Debbie Valdez, Family Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jackqueline Cooper-Community Member
Nana Knowles, Family Member
Commissioner Paul Elizondo
Senator Leticia Van de Putte
Sandra Irachetz-Cruz, Community Member

STAFF PRESENT

Anthony Jalomo, ALA Director
Virginia Charles, Services Manager – GR
Brian Lopez, Client Rights Officer
Lona Carter, Services Manager – HCS
Sara Sobieski, Services Manager – HCS
Satira Hollis, Service Coordinator -COS
Teresa S. Kolenda, Administrative Assistant

1. Ms. Canfield called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call by Ms. Kolenda.
3. No citizens to be heard.
4. Consider and Approval of the minutes from Special Called Meeting, June 14, 2011. Ms. Stephens, motioned to accept the minutes; Mr. John Evans seconded; all in favor, motion carried.
5. Presentation of informational process for Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Wavier presented by Ms. Hollis:
 - Explanation of services for TxHmL or HCS is given to the individuals and primary correspondent. It is during this time that individuals/families are explained the CDS option.
 - CDS option available only when living in their own home or family home through HCS and service options are only supported home living and respite
 - If they choose the residential option of a group home or foster care, CDS is not available.
 - Families can change their option at any time and can discuss CDS again with their assigned service coordinator.
 - If receiving TxHmL slot, they can choose to use the CDS option for all of the services.

- A review of handout: It's Your Choice: Consumer Directed Services (CDS) that is given to individuals, includes the following forms:
 - ◊ CDS Option Overview
 - ◊ CDS Responsibilities
 - ◊ Employee Qualification Requirements
 - ◊ Acknowledgement of Information Regarding Support Consultation Services in the CDS Option
 - ◊ Consumer Participation Choice

Discussion on the following items:

- Agencies available to assist with CDS options
 - Supported Consultation Services
 - All form generated from DADS
 - Timelines set to complete enrollments
 - CDS Video available on website to view
 - VSS consider support with CDS
 - Report on how many chose CDS option in the local authority
6. Brief discussion and update on In Home Family Support Program and its impact on not being funded FY12 in the amount of \$536,000. This will not be obligated and will affect 250 families.
 7. Discussion ALA FY12 Budget includes:
 - Reduction in Home and Community Based Services (HCS) services
 - Increase for TxHmL Program due primarily through refinance slots
 - Safety Net for In Home Family Support has been eliminated
 - Reduction in Safety Net by 27%
 - Service Reduction for Non-Essential Services in the Medicaid Waiver Program
 - Community Safety Net Services
 - Impact on ALA staff
 8. Review and approval - Request for Application received 14 for General Revenue Program. Request for recommendation on providers currently contracted with ALA to enter into new contracts and move forward to AACOG Board of Directors. Ms. Tarwater motion to accept; Ms. Stephens seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
 9. Discussion and Input for Establishment of Family Care Giver Empowerment. The following were recommended:
 - Workshops – once every 4 months (ALA host)
 - Develop a subcommittee for development of agendas
 - Topics – guardianship, laws, appropriations, special education, etc.
 - Educate families on different programs available to better advocate for their loved ones

Ms. Canfield requests motion to create a subcommittee; Ms. Tarwater motions to accept; Ms. Valdez seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

10. Community Events discussed:

- Autism and Beyond 8.21.11 with guest speaker Dennis Debbaudt

- Asberger sessions 2 a month, very accepting and has been well attended; currently on facebook
11. Ms. Canfield announced the next meeting on 8 November 2011 at 12:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Stephens; seconded by Ms. Tarwater; all in favor, motion carried.