

**ALA
PLANNING & NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Special Called Meeting
June 14, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Irma Canfield, Chair
Mary Hanlon-Hillis, Vice Chair
Pam Stephens, Community Member
Martha Moyer, Family Member
Becky Tarwater, Community Member
Nana Knowles, Family Member
Debbie Valdez, Family Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cara Magrane, Community Member
John Evans, Parliamentarian
Commissioner Paul Elizondo
Senator Leticia Van de Putte
Sandra Iracheta-Cruz, Community Member
Jackqueline Cooper-Community Member

STAFF PRESENT

Anthony Jalomo, ALA Director
Sonja Baggett, Quality Improvement Services Manager
Virginia Charles, Services Manager - GR
Teresa S. Kolenda, Administrative Assistant

1. Ms. Canfield called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.
2. Roll Call by Ms. Kolenda.
3. No citizens to be heard.
4. Ms. Baggett updated members on the progress and the importance of having input from the sub-committee that met weekly for the last 6 weeks. During that time ALA staff presented several proposals and options for consideration. After much discussion and careful review there were two options for the sub-committee to deliberate and select. Ms. Canfield discussed the option unanimously voted by the sub-committee:
 - Reduce the current rates by 25%
 - Change the consumers personal budget - \$6000 to \$4000 for Adults
 - \$3000 to \$2000 for Children
 - ALA continue serving the same number of consumers per year

Ms. Stephens motioned to accept the recommendation of the above option, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Ms. Baggett reviewed the purpose of the ALA Local Plan FY12 and required for all community centers and local authorities have to develop every 2 years. Items discussed:
 - ◇ AACOG's missions, purpose and history
 - ◇ ALA history of who we are and where we are going
 - ◇ One of the goals is the development of Volunteer Support Services Network
 - ◇ The importance of having a volunteer support system in assisting families that otherwise may not have anyone.

- ◇ During the next FY12, AACOG not ALA will be able to develop such a volunteer support network.
- ◇ The program is advocacy, support, friendship and to enrich the lives of the families.

Ms. Baggett reviewed ALA's Goals and Objectives for the Local Plan FY12:

The ALA has reviewed all requirements required by law and the Performance Contract.

The primary goal for FY 2011-2012 is to provide consumers seeking services with quality care utilizing the most effective and cost efficient models of care.

- Objective 1: By the end of FY 11, the ALA will revise public relations material that describes eligibility and services.
- Objective 2: By the end of FY 11, the ALA will update video materials and distribute the updated materials to all special education departments and transitional coordinators throughout the Bexar County school districts.
- Objective 3: By the end of FY 11, the ALA will update the website that provides contact information, application information, and a comprehensive listing of services and providers.
- Objective 4: During FY 11, ALA will participate fully in the implementation of the HCS Service Coordination responsibilities.
- Objective 5: During FY 12, ALA will develop a "Volunteer Support System" (VSS) for Individuals served. The role of the volunteers is to assist and actively advocate for Individuals who are without the benefit of Family or Guardian support.

The volunteers of the VSS can assist consumers with a wide range of supports and help them with accessing services. The volunteers are not experts in service delivery, but people who have the desire and motivation to create a satisfying quality of life for our consumers. In order to achieve this goal, and advocate and support consumers most in need, and to enhance the quality of their lives, the following core values and key beliefs are paramount:

The Local Plan FY12 will be presented to the AACOG Board of Directors for approval and once approved it will be placed in our website.

Ms. Canfield reviewed the task at hand to members to ensure understanding and to place for a vote on moving on with the above recommendations. Ms. Valdez motioned to accept the above recommendations, Ms Knowles seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion followed with inquires on the VSS:

- ◇ who to notify of families needing this support?
- ◇ AACOG will have the lead in setting up this support system.
- ◇ ALA will appoint a liaison to assist in this venture.
- ◇ AACOG has experience with Volunteer programs it is a matter of crafting to our specific needs.

Ms. Valdez discussed concerns on the town hall meeting she attended on CDS and how families were unaware of this option. A representative from ALA would have been beneficial to all attending. Mr. Jalomo informed members currently ALA has been participating in webinars related to CDS and it is discussed as an option during individuals' annual renewal of their service plans.

Ms. Canfield recommends adding this as an agenda item for our next meeting.

6. Ms. Stephens gave a brief description on the PNAC applicant, Larry Rodriguez, and how knowledgeable he is in working with individuals with special needs. He is a great advocate and will be an asset for PNAC. He has great qualities, is kind, and does well in doing presentations. Ms. Knowles also commented on Mr. Rodriguez having met him recently and how knowledgeable, kind and very personable he is. Ms. Canfield asked for a motion to accept Mr. Rodriguez's application. Ms. Valdez motioned to accept the candidate's application, Ms. Stephens seconded the motion, all in favor, motioned carried.
7. Ms. Canfield announced the next meeting on August 2, 2011 at 12:30 pm as a working lunch. Agenda items will be discussed between Ms. Canfield and Ms. Baggett.

Other items of interest:

- Attend the scheduled ACOG Board of Director's meeting, June 29, 2011 that will present the Regional Awards recipient, Mr. Gordon Hartman.
 - DADS meeting in Austin, TX, June 29, 2011 that will cover the new rates. Conference call will be available or check the website for more details.
 - Mr. Jalomo announced the IHFS program was not funded and how it affects ALA in the amount of \$536,000 that will not be obligated and will affect 250 families.
 - In the \$26 million dollars cut the state has to refinance a group of individuals receiving GR and providing an opportunity for them to enroll in TxHmL Waiver. Currently process is in place and affects 98 individuals that met the criteria. On Friday, June 17, an enrollment meeting with the families and providers at the Omni Hotel.
 - Brief discussion on the Serenity House being for GR consumers and as a last resort. Mr. Jalomo reports positive feed back from UHS.
8. Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Stephens; seconded by Ms. Knowles; all in favor, motion carried.