

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
Home and Community-Based Services Advisory Group

March 18, 2015 – 11:00 am to 3:30 pm
Department of Rehabilitation, Room 169
721 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING SUMMARY

Nancy Bargmann, Deputy Director, welcomed members and interested persons to the second meeting of the Department of Developmental Services Home and Community Based Services Advisory Group. Those present and on the phone made self-introductions.

Deputy Director Bargmann walked through the agenda and expressed gratitude that this meeting coincided with the Human Services Research Institute work in California. The team has agreed to present to the Advisory Group how the federal home and community-based settings regulations correlate to National Core Indicators, and how the National Core Indicators surveys could align with expectations of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Jim Knight, Assistant Deputy Director, recapped priorities identified by the Advisory Group during the February 17th meeting. Two immediate areas of focus that Advisory Group members are undertaking are community education/outreach and assessment of statute and regulations.

The Community Education subgroup met via phone on March 5th. It was agreed that effective information about the rules should be made available on an incremental basis. A draft of the first outreach message was distributed. Extensive suggestions were made and discussed for modifying the draft.

Additionally, suggested actions for the Department included, but were not limited to:

1. Ensure the “CMS Home and Community-Based Services Regulations” home page, <http://www.dds.ca.gov/HCBS/index.cfm>, is updated on the status of work being undertaken by the Department, the Advisory Group, and stakeholders, as well as definition of home and community-based services, how the rules affect and impact Californians. Keep messages simple.
2. Link the home page to other related websites containing helpful documents, such as the article available on the Autistic Self Advocacy Network website.
3. Develop a Frequently Asked Questions document defining terms, services, and explanations of processes that may be required for compliance with regulations.

Handouts were made available for review and discussion about the tool which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will use to facilitate evaluation of Statewide Transition Plans, including California’s Plan (<http://www.nasddds.org/news/cms-posts-guidance-to-transition-plan-reviewers-on-hcbs-web-page/>). The questions to be

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answered regarding assessment of the home and community-based settings will be useful as the Department develops its transition plans.

HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRESENTATION

Researchers from the Human Services Research Institute presented the background of the National Core Indicator measures. The presentation included use of National Core Indicator data in provision of waiver and state plan assurances to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and proposals for monitoring states' progress in meeting home and community-based settings and person-centered planning rules, expectations for transition plans, and uses in quality improvement efforts.

The presentation and subsequent discussion gave Advisory Group members an opportunity to consider ways to incorporate the National Core Indicator in areas such as employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety. Ideas can be considered during future meetings.

NEXT MEETING

July 1, 2015
Department of Social Services Auditorium