

Self-Determination Blue Earth County Project Update

Local project coordinator was named 7/97 and began work full time 10/97.

1. Consumer and Family Involvement/Education

- self-advocacy group is being formed; presentations by People First - New Ulm. Officers elected 12/97. Group is in process of setting priorities for 1998.
- mailing sent to families and consumers in county; second mailing ("update") is being prepared.
- presentations to local Arc group
- educational forum co-sponsored with Arc being planned for 2/5/98.

2. Project Participants

- 15 people are in various stages of planning, education &/or attempts at implementation of changes. The focus is different for each person and their team. Outcomes are also varying depending on circumstances. Some examples: one gentleman moved out of an ICF/MR into a home with his sister, receiving waived services. Two others are contemplating a move out of an ICF/MR but we are dealing with "system" issues. One gentleman made a job change, keeping same provider. Another is contemplating alternatives to his current day program. Two or three people are using project principles as they begin transition from school to work - various funding levels at this time. In a couple other situations it's been primarily education at this point, with opportunities for people to process what self-determination might mean for them.
- Obstacles encountered so far: setting individual budgets, having team members think creatively, dealing with new "roles", looking to ourselves rather than the "system" for solutions.

3. Provider Capacity

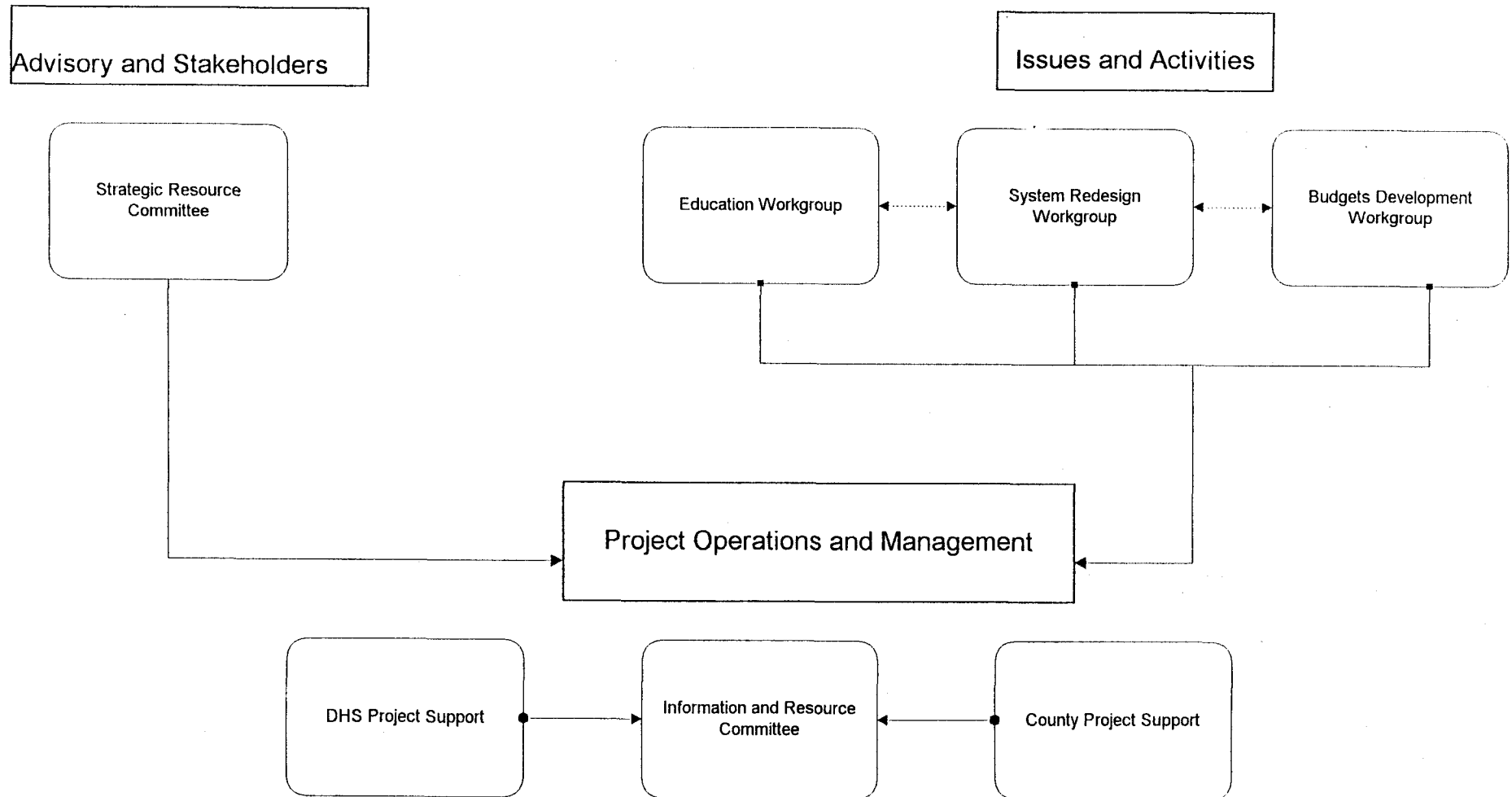
- Initial meetings held with all county providers regarding project.

- One provider (HMC) has taken on a change of moving all team meetings to be more person-centered.
- Dr. Angela Amado will be working with agencies beginning 2/98 with "Person-centered System Design".
- Roundtable Discussions being held monthly (began 11/97) for interested direct service staff.
- Much happens in this area with Project Assure work (the demo project). Training for implementation of a single plan to be used begins 1/98. Service coordination model has been developed.

4. Additional work

- "Family - managed Accounts" for respite care began 12/97. Beginning with 3-5 families.
- Jane Wells Lawrence will be doing facilitator training for Personal Futures Planning in 1/98. PATH training scheduled for 3/98. Long term goal is to have increased pool of facilitators, as well as a mentoring program/support network for facilitators.
- Advisory Council with representatives of parents, consumers, and providers meets every 4-6 weeks to assist project coordinator in setting priorities for this area and monitor progress.

Minnesota's Self Determination Project Committee and Workgroup Structure



Minnesota's Self Determination Project

A Developmental Disabilities Project Partnership - Blue Earth, Dakota, Olmsted Counties and DHS

WORKGROUP/COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Strategic Resource/Stakeholders Committee

Purpose/Functions: To support self determination activities on a statewide basis and provide a forum for sharing information and receiving input from stakeholders regarding the project.

Committee members: Committee members represent key stakeholders including project sites staff, legal advocacy, provider organizations, consumer organizations, business, consumers, DHS staff, legislator.

Information and Resource Committee

Purpose/Functions: To 1) provide a forum for the state, counties and others to share information and provide updates, 2) initiate problem solving on identified issues, 3) to provide opportunities for consultant contacts/presentations

Committee members: Project sites staff, consumers, provider, DHS staff, consultants, representatives from the Performance Based Contracting Project and the Demonstration for People with Disabilities Project.

Education Workgroup

Purpose/Functions: - To develop an education and outreach implementation plan to assure consumers, their supports and the community, receive and understand information regarding self determination, how to make informed choices, person-centered planning approaches, quality assurance issues and other relative topics.

Workgroup members: - Representatives from 3 project sites, consultants, DHS staff.

System Redesign Workgroup

Workgroup members: - Representatives from 3 project sites, consultants, and DHS staff

Purpose/Functions: To provide direction and strategies to change the status quo of service delivery, increase flexibility, shift consumer supports control to the consumer, address barriers and work on changes that are necessary to make self determination a reality for persons with developmental disabilities.

Individually Controlled Resources/Liability Workgroup

Purpose/Functions: To provide direction, strategies and consultation for the technical development for individual controlled resources including dispersing and

tracking funds, liability and other issues which will allow consumers to have control over their resources for purchasing individualized supports.

Workgroup members: - Representatives from 3 project sites, consultants, and DHS staff.

DHS Support Staff Workgroup

Purpose/Functions: To work on targeted self determination action plans, provide a framework for change, build local capacity at the local level, introduce legislation, and provide a coordination link between state projects, local capacity building and statewide initiatives.

Workgroup members: DHS staff representing initiatives and key areas for targeted for re-design.

County Project Support Staff Workgroups

Purpose/Functions: To promote self determination principles at the local county level and to implement the Self Determination Project.

Workgroup members: County project staff.

Note: Each county project site has local workgroups and advisory committees to assist with implementation of the Project.

Minnesota's Self Determination Project

A Developmental Disabilities Project Partnership - Blue Earth, Dakota, Olmsted Counties and DHS

(Taken from Minnesota's Self Determination Grant Proposal)

Project Goals

The Self-Determination Project has goals in five related areas described below:

Improve Management and Administration of Services

- Provide local entities responsibility for local resources and implications for their use of those resources.
- Develop service approaches that meet the needs of the geographic area being served.
- Increase incentives for people to remain in local communities.
- Support local communities to analyze and expand capacity to meet the needs of local citizens.
- Increase competition among and choice of service providers.

Improve Service Financing and Design

- Provide for and support individual resource allocations and choice.
- Support individuals and families who are controlling their own resources and/or services.
- Develop and implement a rational means of resource allocation to local entities.
- Integrate all expenditures into single budgets for flexibility and efficiency.
- Develop methods and support to transition from obsolete services.
- Define a basic package of services for all persons with DD.
- Support greater innovation and benefit in work and other day programs.

Improve Access to Services

- Increase equity in access and resources for persons with similar needs.
- Increase access to, and resources for, culturally appropriate services.
- Provide for local experimentation with expanded eligibility.
- Establish an ethical basis for access decisions.

Improve Quality Assurance and Monitoring

- Design locally-based systems of quality assurance with consumer and family input, within guidelines established by federal and state governments.
- Make choice and control an integral part of the definition of quality.
- Link quality assurance systems with quality improvement support services.

Redesign Roles

- Renegotiate and redesign traditional roles of governmental administrative employees as necessary to achieve project goals.
- Establish appropriate support systems to assist local entities, consumers, families, and service providers to fulfill new roles.
- Evaluate project implementation and outcomes to refine project as needed.



DAKOTA COUNTY SELF-DETERMINATION PROJECT

Dakota County Social Services

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PROJECT UPDATE

Prepared for the Strategic Resources/Stakeholder Committee

DECEMBER 19, 1997

In addition to the four project principles of *freedom, authority, support and responsibility*, Dakota County has identified two others which are an integral part of its project implementation: *simplicity and relationships*.

COMMUNITY AND PROVIDER INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

In early September 1997, three community meetings were held. The purpose of the sessions was to provide information about the project, the principles of self-determination, and present the opportunity for participation. Everyone with a developmental disability for whom Dakota County has financial responsibility, along with their parents/guardians was invited. All service providers in Dakota County were also invited. Eighty-five people attended the sessions. Half of those who attended were individuals with disabilities or family members/friends. The others were provider or county staff. People unable to attend also received information by calling, from social workers or from others who attended.

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION

To participate in the project, the individual with developmental disabilities or a related condition, (along with their parents/guardian/conservator as appropriate) must:

- ◇ be Dakota County's financial responsibility
- ◇ use funding available to be pooled for the project (county and waiver)
- ◇ develop, revise and update as needed, a Personal Support Plan
- ◇ be willing to be part of a learning process
- ◇ give regular feedback
- ◇ sign a participation agreement
- ◇ make arrangements for obtaining and paying providers of goods, support and services

Thirty four individuals/families applied to participate in the project. Of those 34, four had funding not available to be pooled for the project. One moved and another withdrew due to health problems. Because of their strong desire to participate, the remaining 28 were accepted into the project, even though the original plan was to accept only 20. Participants range in age from three to 65 and have a wide variety of living, working and educational circumstances. They also have a broad range of cognitive and physical abilities and disabilities.

PARTICIPANT AND PROVIDER ORIENTATION

In mid November, participants, along with their social workers had the option of attending one of two orientation sessions. (Throughout the remainder of this document participant may also mean, as is appropriate to each situation: parents/guardians of minor children, the guardian or conservator for the adult with developmental disabilities, or an individual the participant/their support team designates to assist in a particular area.) Participants were given information about determining individual budgets, developing Personal Support Plans, project policy, the participation agreement, project guidance and participant support.

An orientation for providers, covering the same information as the participants had received, was held in early December.

INDIVIDUAL BUDGET DETERMINATION and IMPLEMENTATION

Current project participants have historical costs in Dakota County. During the first two weeks of December, the project coordinator and the developmental disabilities section manager met with each participant's social worker and the social worker's supervisor to set the individual budget using those historical costs. Social workers are now in the process of communicating the amounts to participants. When those who do not have historical costs come into the project, Dakota County will be piloting a new financial allocation tool which is based on general needs, current living situation, and required supervision level.

Participants will have a Self-Determination Voucher Account. This is a checking account owned by Dakota County but on which the participant or their designee is a signer. Supports, goods and services will be purchased using this account. Funds available for support will be deposited by the county for use by the participant/their designee in accordance with the Personal Support Plan. Funds will be a combination of both county and waiver dollars. County dollars will initially fund the accounts but waiver dollars, as reimbursable under state guidelines, will be used to replenish funds up to the point of the participants annual waiver allocation. The remainder of the budget expenditures will be funded by the county dollars.

PERSONAL SUPPORT PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL

Voucher accounts and fund distribution will begin only following development and approval of a Personal Support Plan. Components of the plan include: what the participant wants to do, what support they need to do it, assurances that risk of harm to self and others is minimized, adequate health care, and designation of who is going to find, provide and coordinate support. The same group that set the individual budget will approve the plan.

Participants may choose whomever they wish to help them develop their plan. Several participants have already, or are currently completing formal person-centered planning processes. Others may also choose to do so. The type of planning process used is up to the participant and may be either formal or informal. The only expectation is that they address each of the components listed above. Participants are in various stages of development of their Personal Support Plans.

EVALUATION

We believe there are two things we need to evaluate. One is the support and services the participants receive. The other is the process we are using in this project. The questions we are currently addressing are: "What do we need and want to know?" and "What's the best way to find that out?" Our Interagency Early Intervention Committee has had successful experience in evaluating outcomes against principles for service through interview and narrative approaches. We are building upon what they have learned to develop our process. Areas we will be addressing in addition to health, safety and satisfaction include choice, control, relationships, support, information and communication.

PARTICIPANT SUPPORT

Over the course of the project we expect to learn a great deal more about what participants need for support in the self-determination process. Currently, in addition to information about self-determination, participants have access to person-centered planning facilitation. Dakota County has a provider training network which has facilitators trained in numerous methods of planning as well as provides training opportunities for staff, families and people with disabilities. They are excited about the project and anxious to work together in the areas of facilitation and training. We are also working closely with our local Arc to determine joint efforts for participant support.

For participants who chose to hire support themselves, employer of record options to handle payroll, taxes, workers' compensation, liability, etc. as well as background checks and training will be available. User friendly materials on applicable state and federal law are being adapted for use by participants.

Participants have also asked for regular opportunities to meet and talk with each other. These will commence after the first of the year.

PROJECT GUIDANCE

Two People First groups meet regularly in Dakota County. One has already agreed to act in a consumer advisory capacity to the project. The project coordinator is scheduled to meet with the other group in January to propose a similar relationship. A steering committee will also begin meeting in January. Membership in this group is open to anyone interested in or connected to providing services and support to people with developmental disabilities in Dakota County, including providers, family members and county staff. These groups will provide input and direction in all areas of project implementation, i.e. training, project process, and evaluation.

For more information, contact: Karen Courtney, Project Coordinator, 612-552-3046.

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