

Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County ~ EITAS

Planning & Services Committee Meeting

May 20, 2009

| Topic/Issue | Minutes | Summary of Action Taken or Pending |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Attendance | Barbara Winkler, Bill Anderson and Rosetta Robins, Board Members. Jake Jacobs, Nancy Nicolaus, Catherine Sterrett and Kathleen Ganaden, Staff. Guest: Bob Adams. | |
| Call to Order | Barbara Winkler, Planning and Services Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM at the Administrative offices of Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County, 8508 Hillcrest Road, Kansas City, Missouri. | |
| Program Update – Support Services Nancy Nicolaus | <p>Nancy Nicolaus, Support Services Supervisor opened her report by sharing that Dr. John McGee is in-town this week presenting a week long Gentle Teaching seminar. The seminar has 30 enrollees with 12-13 mentors participating and doing the training. Out of this group of enrollees five have expressed a desire to come back and be a part of the mentoring network. During the seminar there have been many success stories shared.</p> <p>Jake Jacobs, Executive Director interjected that <u>The Lens</u> will begin spotlighting some of these success stories. Rosetta Robins, Member inquired if there was going to be a video so some of the success stories could be captured. For posterity, Ms. Robins feels this would be important. Ms. Nicolaus replied that as a part of their training Dr. McGee is donating 250 gb of his videos or basically a copy of everything he has. These videos can be incorporated in the training curriculum until eitas has their own. To date, Ms. Nicolaus reports that there are about 20 mentors with another 5 coming aboard.</p> <p>Barbara Winkler, Planning & Services Chair inquired if most of the agencies eitas supports are sending people for Gentle Teaching training. Ms. Nicolaus replied that the majority of agencies are. Mr. Jacobs interjected that the success of the Gentle Teaching program is spreading and in time it is believed that all agencies will be participating.</p> <p>Mr. Jacobs shared that he met with Jerry Carpenter, Director of the Kansas City Regional Center and other providers to discuss some of the positive stories of the Gentle Teaching program. From this discussion it was learned that many are at odds with the State's</p> | Information |

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| <p>Program Update - Nancy Nicolaus Continued</p> | <p>Positive Behavioral Support program as it does not mesh well with the Gentle Teaching program. Thus eitas will be petitioning the State to have Jackson County, Missouri exempt from having to participate in this program. Gentle Teaching is about the person and the Positive Behavioral Support program is about behavior.</p> <p>In closing, Ms. Nicolaus reported that the quarterly reports have been completed, and in the future the Support Services team would like to support the development of natural supports.</p> | <p>Information</p> |
| <p>Support Coordination - Patti Phillips and Catherine Sterrett</p> | <p>With the absence of Patti Phillips, Support Coordination Supervisor, Jake Jacobs gave Ms. Phillips report to the Committee. Mr. Jacobs opened the report by sharing that there are 250 people on the waiting list. In March 2009, Support Coordination logged 1188 hours case management or an average of 119 hours per Service Coordinator. Three coordinators are in Gentle Teaching training this week for a total of four trained. Other coordinators will be trained in future sessions scheduled this year. Two in-house trainings are scheduled for June; one Hyperbaric Therapy for Autism and the Coalition for Independence is doing a presentation about Universal Housing for Service Coordinators.</p> <p>Catherine Sterrett, Support Coordination Supervisor shared that a total of six new Service Coordinators have been hired and will begin on June 1. Only one of the six will be bringing their caseload with them so the other five will be able to accommodate about 180 people on the waiting list or 36 people per coordinator. The new suites of offices are ready and plans are underway to interview and hire additional Service Coordinators to accommodate the balance of the waiting list.</p> | |
| <p>New Business</p> | <p>Mr. Jacobs wanted to share additional information about his meeting with Jerry Carpenter of the Kansas City Regional Center (KCRO). Mr. Carpenter shared that KCRO is averaging 300 new clients a year and from his estimation, eitas will need an additional 78 Service Coordinators to accommodate the needs of Jackson County.</p> | |

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| <p>New Business Continued</p> | <p>Mr. Jacobs shared that plans are being studied as to how to be able to offer additional supports to a Service Coordinator who has a client in crisis. Plans that will enable additional supports for the Service Coordinator, the client in crisis and support for the other clients with that Service Coordinator's caseload.</p> <p>Members were updated about the Children's Mercy project that eitas is helping to fund. A program that assists with the salaries of people with developmental disabilities to go and work at Children's Mercy Hospital. Cathy Smith, formerly with the Rehabilitation Institute is leading the program at Children's Mercy. Unfortunately at this time, there is a hiring pause at the hospital and they are unable to hire anybody at this point. So Rehabilitation Institute is asking eitas to pay for eight summer internships with the hope at summer's end the hospital will be able to offer positions to these eight people. Mr. Jacobs indicated he had no problem with paying for the salaries of these individuals during the summer because they will be getting invaluable job training and the opportunity to have steady employment.</p> <p>Joy Foster, Executive Director for Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) communicated with Mr. Jacobs about the Kansas City Star investigation of the JVS refugee relocation project. The investigation has nothing to do with eitas support of or for various JVS people or projects. Mr. Jacobs will keep alert as to any changes at the JVS workshop and/or dime store.</p> <p>Mr. Jacobs shared that he received many positive comments about the Annual Awards Presentation this year. Representative Jeff Grisamore, Michael Sanders - County Executive, Mayor Don Reimal of Independence, Isabelle Harris - Governor's Council on Disabilities and Legislator Theresa Garza Ruiz were a few of the dignitaries in attendance. It has been suggested that in addition to the awards given out each year that eitas develop an educational scholarship for a person wanting to go to college. Committee members thought this was an excellent idea.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Information</p> |

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| <p>New Business Continued</p> | <p>As part of the stimulus package the federal government increased their share of the Medicaid payment they make to the State. For eitas that averages an 8% increase. The increase is based on the Medicaid services eitas has provided. Even though the stimulus money will only last until 2011 it will give eitas some extra funds to provide extra services.</p> <p>In closing, Mr. Jacobs shared that the Governor’s office contacted eitas to see if they could schedule a press conference at eitas. The Governor’s office had been told that eitas is one of the leading providers in the State. At the press conference the Governor’s office would like to highlight the federal stimulus money that an agency like eitas will be receiving. Governor Jay Nixon will not be here, but Commissioner of Administration Kelvin Simmons from the State Department of Heath will represent him and speak. Mr. Jacobs has also been asked to speak at the press conference.</p> <p>Nancy Nicolaus shared that she had spoken with Derrick Dufresque, a national presenter and spokesperson, and he shared that he thought what eitas was doing in Jackson County was better than anywhere else in the State. Dr. John McGee shared that he thought our progress with Gentle Teaching was just phenomenal.</p> <p>Rosetta Robins, Board Secretary and other Members applauded Mr. Jacobs for all that has been accomplished since his inception with the agency. Agency name recognition and acknowledgement of good works in the community, County and State are exactly what the Board wanted when they hired Mr. Jacobs.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Information</p> |
| <p>Old Business</p> | <p>None.</p> | |
| <p>Public Comment</p> | <p>Bob Adams, parent commented that he wished all parents (of children with developmental disabilities) could have experienced the tour of the two facilities that was taken this evening. Particularly those parents who have children that could benefit from those facilities. He feels that if other parents could see what is available that they might be more</p> | |

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| <p>Public Comment Continued</p> | <p>open to letting their children go which often becomes a tough love situation for them.</p> <p>Mr. Adams also acknowledged Marvin Blake for his accomplishments with the renovation of the two facilities. Mr. Blake's knowledge and expertise was evident in seeing these two facilities completed.</p> <p>Mr. Adams also acknowledged Nancy Nicolaus and a Service Coordinator for assisting a family with a child that became ill after the age of 18 and not eligible for eitas benefits. Ms. Nicolaus was able to correct a negative workshop situation for the child which in turn made the child more comfortable and happy with his job while also providing some relief for the parents.</p> <p>Tracy Mauk, Service Specialist was also acknowledged by Mr. Adams for supporting an autistic family who literally had nothing and was sleeping on the floor of a rental unit.</p> | <p>Information</p> |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p>As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Staff</p> | |