

Systems Transformation Grant Quarterly Report 1-17-09

Staff Updates

We are happy to announce two new additions to the Systems Transformation Grant staff. **Heather Hudson is the new Research Coordinator for the grant** and is located at One Ashburton Place, 5th floor. She has been the Access Coordinator for the Museum of Science, an office assistant for the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council and Outreach Specialist for the Partners for Youth with Disabilities. She also worked on the O'Brien/Gabrieli Gubernatorial Campaign and the Kerry/Edwards Presidential Campaign. Heather holds a Master of Public Administration in Disability Issues from Suffolk University and a BA from Emmanuel College. Heather can be reached at Heather.Hudson@massmail.state.ma.us or 617-573-1694.

Denise Deschamps is the new Housing Subcommittee lead consultant. She is also currently the coordinator for the Coalition for Senior Housing through the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, Inc. Prior work experience includes working for State Senator Fred Berry, property management consultant for the Cotton Mill Cooperative Housing Corp., Executive Director for the Beverly Affordable Housing Coalition, property manager for a 40 unit low income housing tax credit multi-family dwelling, and community services representative for Mass Housing. She has an MA in Public Policy from Tufts University and a BA from Boston College. Denise can be reached at rddeschamps@comcast.net or 978-578-5729.

State Profile Tool

The State Profile Tool report is due to be completed by 3-31-09. This report will **describe the long-term support services in the EOHHS state agencies for elders and people with disabilities.** It will include utilization and cost data for these services for the past 4 years. As part of the Community First initiatives, the report will establish a baseline measure of public expenditures and create a document which can be updated and used to track the Commonwealth's progress toward rebalancing its long-term support services system.

As part of the State Profile Tool report and to inform the picture of long-term care in Massachusetts, the Commonwealth will be holding several focus groups with people with disabilities and elders who use long-term supports in Massachusetts. The focus groups will be conducted by a consumer-run consultant agency with expertise in this area, Consumer Quality Initiatives, Inc. For more information, contact Cheryl Cumings at Cheryl.Cumings@massmail.state.ma.us or 617-573-1817.

Subcommittee Updates

Each of the Subcommittees met recently to discuss objectives, accomplishments and next steps. These conversations have been lively and

have generated concrete activities to be completed in the next 2 years. Highlights of the subcommittees' future activities are:

The Diversion Subcommittee

- Currently the Diversion Subcommittee is working on two of the activities stated in the Olmstead Plan:
(1) development of an inventory of the mechanisms that **identify and track individuals for transition from nursing facilities and IMD/state psychiatric hospitals**, which will be used to develop recommendations on changes or improvements to the current mechanisms and their interactions.
(2) **an analysis of the interaction of eligibility rules for all community-based long term supports**, with the goal of identifying possible changes to eligibility or cost sharing rules.
- The Subcommittee is working **to identify options for allowing individuals who need personal care assistance services but do not require hands-on assistance with two or more ADLs, to receive cuing and supervision**. The group is currently exploring similar services offered in the state, and will look at possible pilot programs to provide this service."
- The Diversion Subcommittee will be helping to support EOHHS's **Long Term Care Financing Advisory Committee**. This Committee will be convened in late January, and will be **identifying strategic options for the future financing of care for elders and individuals with disabilities** in Massachusetts.
- **For more information contact Eliza Lake at elizalake@charter.net or 617-413-8604.**

The Housing Subcommittee

- The Housing Subcommittee has successfully worked with CHAPA, MRC and others to **redesign and fund the marketing for the Mass Access Housing Registry website** to help bridge the gap between residents in need of affordable, accessible housing and available apartments across the state. The updated site features a user-friendly design and an expanded database of affordable rental housing in Massachusetts, including accessible and adaptable homes for people with disabilities.
- **A Housing Needs Assessment Tool was produced** to facilitate a consumer's unmet housing and long-term care support needs. The tool is being further refined, pilot tested and made ready for dissemination.
- An Education and Training Work Group was created to devote its efforts to planning and implementing several educational forums. **The workgroup**

is currently planning an informational and solution producing Housing Summit for stakeholders involved with housing for people with disabilities and elders. Additional training is being planned for housing search workers/service coordinators, developers, and property managers.

- The Subcommittee has been asked to share staff with the Cross-EOHHS Housing Group. **This group will be working on a mapping project that outlines all the housing units available in the state** which can then be used to plan new developments, compare it to demand and identify areas of need.
- **For more information contact Denise Deschamps at rddeschamps@comcast.net or 978-578-5729.**

The Quality Subcommittee

- The Quality Subcommittee will **create core outcomes** across five domain areas: access, health and safety, person-centeredness, respect and dignity, and community integration and inclusion. This work will include consumer input to help refine the core outcomes.
- A cross agency quality workgroup will be launched in January 2009 to **provide a forum for state agency quality managers to discuss best practices**, review the quality inventory completed by the Subcommittee and make recommendations for how to better coordinate quality data and management operations, as well as keep abreast of state quality initiatives that may have mutually supportive agendas.
- **Quality reports will be developed and field tested with various audiences such as consumers, providers, policymakers, among others.** The Subcommittee will continue to discuss how it should evaluate a comprehensive quality management strategy, focusing efforts on identification of best practices against which to measure performance rather than develop a formalized evaluation plan.
- **A long-term care quality “inventory” will be produced to take a close look at identifying how quality management systems are set up** across agencies providing long-term support services in the Commonwealth and recommendations will be made on a comprehensive quality management strategy for long-term care.
- **For more information contact Heather Johnson at Heather.Johnson_Lamarche@verizon.net or 978-582-1298.**

Lights, Camera, Action

The Systems Transformation Grant is creating a video that defines and depicts long-term support services to educate stakeholders about the need for these services. It will include interviews with people with disabilities and elders that do and do not receive these services and discussions about why they are so critical. Cost estimates to the Commonwealth for expanding provision of long-term support services will be provided. The STG Video Production Team is currently working on pre-production activities and has hired the Hawkes Media Group to film and edit the movie. The team is identifying individuals to interview and plans to begin filming in the community soon. For more information, contact wendy.trafton@massmail.state.ma.us or 617-573-1822.

STG to Create a Consumer Involvement Toolkit

A cross grant workgroup has been formed to create a consumer involvement toolkit that can be used by state agencies, service providers and others to facilitate consumer involvement in all aspects of long-term support services policy making and systems change activities. **Concrete tools, materials and approaches will be developed as a guide to assess current procedures and improve strategies for involving consumers.** Integrating the toolkit ideas into an organization's activities will be a key component of the toolkit. For more information contact Heather Johnson at Heather.Johnson_Lamarche.verizon.net or 802-879-1338.

STG is Linked to the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICCH)

In November of 2007, Governor Patrick re-established the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness. Chaired by Lt. Governor Tim Murray, the Council is charged with implementing the recommendations of the Legislative Commission to End Homelessness.

The Commonwealth's goal is to support efforts that provide homeless people with housing quickly and then services as needed. Last month the Patrick/Murray administration awarded \$8 million to eight regional networks around the Commonwealth, called Regional Network Innovations to End Homelessness. These networks will coordinate and implement innovative strategies that refocus all our efforts on sustainable housing.

Presently, staff from across state government is organized into Working Groups to address key policy components including Housing Needs and Supply, Homelessness Prevention, Housing Stabilization, Policy and Regulations, Civic Engagement and Asset Development. Many STG participants are involved in this effort as is Valerie Konar, Project Director. The STG will stay abreast of the ICHH activities and support their efforts wherever possible.

Olmstead-Plan Update

On September 12, 2008, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services' Secretary JudyAnn Bigby presented the Community First Olmstead Plan to

Governor Patrick. **The Community First Olmstead Plan is a roadmap and action plan reflecting Governor Patrick's commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities and elders have access to community-living opportunities and supports that address each individual's diverse needs, abilities and backgrounds.**

The fundamental goals of the Olmstead Plan are to help individuals transition from institutional care; expand access to community-based long-term supports; improve the capacity and quality of community-based long-term supports; expand access to affordable and accessible housing with supports; promote employment of persons with disabilities and elders; and promote awareness of long-term supports. The action items outlined in the plan reflect many of the current initiatives underway and also identify new initiatives in each of the six goal areas to be completed in the next 18 month period.

The plan was developed over many months by EOHHS and the Olmstead Planning Committee, which was an outgrowth of the Diversion Subcommittee Targeting Workgroup of the Systems Transformation Grant. In October 2008, the EOHHS hosted educational forums in four regions across the state on the Community First Olmstead Plan. The Olmstead Plan can be found online at www.mass.gov/hhs/communityfirst.

The Systems Transformation Grant wants your Input

The Systems Transformation Grant has less than two years to go! **We always want to hear your input on how we can achieve our mission.** Contact any of the staff or leads to give us your input. Or if you wish to provide input anonymously, we now have an opportunity for you to do so on our website. Go to www.communityfirstgrant.org and click on *Contact Us* to ask a question or make a comment.

Thanks for your continued participation in the Systems Transformation Grant!