

NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competency (NJSNCC)

Notes to Meeting

of

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Host: Stephen Smith, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Central Office

Location: DDD, Commerce Way, Hamilton Township.

Steering Committee Attendees: Amruta More, Sophia Rossovsky, Bill Gaventa, Nancy J. Field, Liz Fortunato, Shakira Linzey, Diana Garzio, Stephen Smith

General Session Attendees: Edris O'Garro, Beth Fier, Madhuri Rodriguez, Kyle Caler, Tamara Bannon, Cathy Cummings.

1:00 pm Steering Committee

Welcome and Introductions of Steering Committee given by Stephen Smith, Co-Chairperson. Group discussion began with brainstorming ideas on potential guest speakers and/or events, and initiatives for future NJSNCC meetings. Results of brainstorming session:

- Identified and listed potential guests to attend future meetings. They will be invited via a letter [NJSNCC letterhead] with revised brochure.
- Develop a tracking method/document for the training requests, speaker requests, etc. that come through listserv. This will assist in determining if a request from an agency/organization was completed. For example, did a requestor obtain the contact information of a speaker, or did employment result as a result of a job opportunity posting? This will assist NJSNCC to assess if the requestor has been served.
- Develop bios on steering committee members and post on web site

Listserv: Group agreed that the NJSNCC listserv is a good source to share and learn about upcoming events including family events and community programs, training events, job opportunities, distributing National reports and messages. Anyone who is interested in sharing new projects, requesting training, posting positions or posting information related to cultural competence on the listserv can send directly out to listserv.

Action Item: Bill Gaventa will distribute instructions on how to post events to listserv and information on protocol for this process.

Web site. It was reported that on average the NJSNCC web site receives 400 hits a month. Suggestion was made to develop bios on steering committee members and post on web site, as well as a suggestion to develop a question(s) to web site to assess if the search and/or web site was found useful? An agency or organization can complete the survey form directly on the web site. This application is reviewed by Zenaida Steinhauer for completeness.

Action Items:

- Liz Fortunato will revise NJSCC Brochure and forward to Zenaida S. to coordinate web site update and to Bill Gaventa for reprinting.
- A survey form was completed by the ARC of Somerset and there is missing information. Stephen S. will follow up with this agency. This survey is available on the web for agencies & organization to complete.

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2:30 pm Presentation. Ken Richey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

- Commissioner Richey presented an overview of DDD today and tomorrow.
- Currently: \$850,000 in contracted services that serve 38,000 individuals/families
- DDD operates 7 Developmental centers-3,000 residents totals DDD-funded services are not an entitlement.
- DDD is looking at ways to; use funding most efficiently, serve more people, and provide culturally competent services
- Current initiatives include;
 - Olmsted
 - Assigning people an individualized budget
 - Home and community Based Services Waiver Amendment (HCBS)
 - Children's Placement Enhancement Pilot (C-PEP)-goal is to stop sending clients out of state and to bring those who are there now back, both children and adults.
 - Community Services waiting list
 - Contract Reform. DDD is moving toward fee for services.
- Department Sponsored Task Forces
 - Dual Diagnosis Task Force-DDD and Mental Health began meeting in Jan. '08
 - Family Support Task Force-made of parents and DDD staff
- Adult Services for people with autism
- Support the Community Work Force-a link to College of Direct Support [University of Minnesota] to learn more go to http://info.collegeofdirectsupport.com/go/about/advisory_board/
- Improve DDD's Internal Structure
- Rebalancing Services and Service Dollars-goal is to coordinate more services through the county level
- Legislative Issues

Open Discussion:

- Blue Ribbon-Stephen Smith reported on the recent meeting he attended on June 9, 2008, State Government and Immigration: Goals, Models & Programs, through Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics Program on Immigration & Democracy.
- The NJ Special Needs Advisory Panel (SNAP) is looking at emergency preparedness through collaboration with Emergency Office of Management (EOM) and agencies throughout New Jersey. For more information you may visit the website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/plan/special-needs-njsnap.html>.

3:30 pm Announcements:

Anyone who is interested in sharing information on the listerv should do so. Protocols and instructions on how to post your individual messages and information will be sent out to NJSNCC meeting attendees. Suggested items to share are; new project initiatives, requests for training or trainers, upcoming family events and community programs, job opportunities, distributing National reports and messages.

Next meeting: Tentative for October 7, 2008, Middlesex, NJ. Details will be sent out in advance.

4:00 pm Adjourn

To contact NJSNCC visit the web site at <http://www.nj.gov/njsncc/index.shtml>