**Ligas Class Member/Family Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 20, 2016**

Committee Member and Staff Attendees:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **First Name** | **Last Name** | | Dave | Adden | | Ronnie | Cohn | | Jim | Eddings | | Donna | Frownfelter | | Toni | Howard | | Missy | Kichline | | Stephanie | Leach | | Laura | Miller | | Ruthann | Sikora | |

Other Attendees: Cathy Carmody, Mary Dickter

The meeting began at 1:05 pm as a phone conference from locations in the Harris Building, Springfield and the Clinton Building, Chicago.

See attached meeting agenda.

The minutes from the October 21, 2015 meeting were discussed. Suggestions were made for various inclusions.

Mary Dickter requested that some of her comments from the October 2015 meeting be included in the minutes. Those comments are: Mary Dickter said that there are 159 people in Illinois who received award letters in 2012 and still have not received services. While everyone has been working on budget issues, these people are still waiting and suffering at the hands of the State. She also said that since Ligas, the main accomplishments have been administrative in nature, and the State has to get to the point that these individuals find homes according to their Transition Plans.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Donna opened the meeting by leading a discussion on the purpose of the Ligas Class Member/Family Advisory Committee. She asked that members and public attendees focus on the purpose of the committee. She distributed the following excerpt from the Ligas Implementation Plan regarding the committee:

*The Defendants, in conjunction with the Monitor and with input from the Parties, established and continue to support a Ligas Class Member/Family Advisory Committee (CMAC). This committee provides ongoing consultation and advice to the Defendants, Monitor and Parties regarding implementation of Ligas activities from the perspective of Class Members and their families. Members of the CMAC were selected by the Defendants with input from the Parties. The Defendants provide administrative support to the CMAC and, when necessary, reimburse approved costs associated with Class Member/family travel. Summaries of CMAC meetings and any written recommendations are provided to the Parties for review and comment. Meetings of the CMAC are open to the public.*

She suggested that the committee remain focused on subjects pertaining to Ligas, but she recognized the need to give voice to concerns about other issues related to the DD service delivery model. She suggested that the Committee devote a portion of the meeting for public comments to allow all participants an opportunity to express their viewpoints.

Her suggestions and the meeting minutes were approved.

**COURT MONITOR UPDATE:** Ronnie Cohn informed the committee that she has found the State out of compliance in one area of the Consent Decree: capacity and resources. She stated low levels of provider reimbursement are leading high turnover rates of support staff and causing some agencies to run budget deficits. Ronnie will be meeting at least monthly with all parties regarding the compliance findings and report back to the Committee.

**DDD LIGAS UPDATE:** Jim Eddings announced that as of January 1, 2016, 2402 individuals from the PUNS list are receiving services. The Division’s benchmark is 2500 individuals receiving services by June 2016. As of January 1, 2016, 1269 individuals from ICF/DD placements are now receiving community services. The Division’s benchmark was to have 932 individuals placed by Dec. 2015.

**LIFE CHOICES PROJECT:** Kathy Carmody presented an overview of Team Four activities to the Ligas Family Advisory Committee. The presentation included an overview of materials and processes developed by Team Four including the Discovery and Assessment tool and process; the Personal Plan tool and process; the Provider Selection process; and the Service Implementation Plan guidelines. Everyone agreed that the work of Team Four will be critical to developing a person-centered planning process for the community system in Illinois, and that stakeholders across Illinois need to be informed and educated on this effort.

**UPDATE FROM LIGAS FAMILY ADVOCATES: Missy Kichline reported that** The Ligas Family Advocate Program has one purpose – to connect recipients of Ligas award letters seeking Home Based or CILA services and their families with family advocates who are knowledgeable about creative ways to utilize their Ligas funding to build successful lives in the community. Connect with us! We are organizing events statewide to provide information and opportunities for families to network.

Upcoming Events Include:

**February 4** - Hilton Hotel in Lisle: The Arc of Illinois and The Executive Forum Leadership Conference. Speakers include -- Director Greg Fenton, Division of Developmental Disabilities, DHS; Director Kris Smith, Division of Rehabilitation Services, DHS; Ronnie Cohn, Ligas Court Monitor; Director Sheila Romano, Illinois Counsel of Developmental Disabilities.

**February 24** – Oaklawn, Know Your Options / Family Advocacy Presentation: Sarah Myerscough-Mueller, DHS – Update on Employment First Options; Lore Baker, Statewide Housing Coordinator – Housing Options.

**March 11** – Godfrey, Network Conference: Self-Advocates and Local Agencies Presenting

**March 24** – Chicago: 4th Annual Family Advocacy / Ligas Informational Seminar

**May 18** – Champaign: Know Your Options; Court Monitor Cohn & A Representative from Equip for Equality

More detail on these events and more can be found on the Ligas Family Advocate Program website at: [www.ligasfamilyadvocate.org](http://www.ligasfamilyadvocate.org). The Ligas 4th Annual Report of the Monitor can be found under the News tab at the top of the Ligas Family Advocate Program website.

Ligas Family Advocate Program (LFAP) Update LFAP participated in the Life Choices Project, The Quality Forum. LFAP will also be doing a presentation at the QIDP Conference January 26. Specific to me, here are a few activities I’m involved in:

Activities: Participation in local high school transition fairs; Supportive Housing Pilot Project in Southern Illinois; SUSO – presentation with self-advocates “How We Live in Community”; CSH: Housing Solutions Self-Advocate Supportive Housing Seminar; Provided general advocacy and outreach.

Barriers / Concerns identified since October:

* Independent Service Coordinating Agencies are not able to respond, either by phone or email in a reasonable time to requests made by families & individuals they serve. It is not uncommon for me to speak to people/agencies who share they never hear back from the local ISC.
  + It is concerning an individual must perform/demonstrate a skill that would not be expected of any of the non-disabled adults around the table working on the ISP. Meaning we have a greater expectation of performance for the individual who qualifies for developmental disability services than we do of ourselves! (This same disability manner of thinking permeates our education system for those students receiving services under IDEA. It was alarming to also experience in the adult system.)
  + One big challenge of the SHO Pilot Project (May Building) is keeping the local “system people” thinking positively and encouraging families/self-advocates on their supported housing choices. System change is always difficult.
  + There is a great need for more affordable, accessible housing. The Division of Developmental Disabilities should mandate in order to do business with the state a provider MUST offer “x” number of accessible units based on their total number of units available.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ruthann Sikora stated that families who submit packets which are denied by service provider do not learn why the packet was not accepted. She suggested that the Division require providers to state in the DDPAS-10 why an individual was not accepted for services.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. We will meet in the 2A Conference Room in the Harris Building and the Think Tank on the 7th Floor of the Clinton Building.

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:** For questions or comments, please contact Dave Adden: (217) 524-0848 or Dave.Adden@Illinois.gov.