**Ligas Class Member/Family Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2015**

Committee Member and Staff Attendees:

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| **First Name** | **Last Name** |
| Dave | Adden |
| Silvia | Campone |
| Jim | Eddings |
| Donna | Frownfelter |
| Joanne | Kunz |
| Stephanie | Leach |
| Elizabeth | Miller |
| Laura | Miller |
| Kendra | Moses |
| Kit | O’brien-Cota |
| Tony | Records |
| Veronica | Phipps |
| Ruthann | Sikora |

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Other Attendees:

Kathy Carmody, Mary Dickter, Ed McManus

The meeting began at 1:00 pm as a video conference from locations in the Harris Building, Springfield and the Clinton Building, Chicago. A telephone conference line was open and used by some participants.

See attached meeting agenda.

The minutes from the January 20, 2015 meeting were accepted without comment or correction.

**INTRODUCTIONS**: Donna Frownfelter, chairperson, began by asking that attendees introduce themselves briefly. See attendance list above.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Donna spoke in support of the continued funding of the Family Support Network, remarking on their ability to assist families who have or seek services. She volunteered to write a letter to ask for the reinstatement of funds.

**LIGAS FAMILY ADOCATES UPDATE:** Toni Howard and Missy Kichline were in transit to an ARC convention and could not attend. Missy prepared an update on their recent activities. See attachment.

**CLASS COUNSEL UPDATE:** Laura Miller reported that Class counsel has asked the Monitor to find the State out of compliance in three main areas:

*Failure to provide CILA or other integrated residential settings to individuals with a high level of medical need, significant behavioral issues, need for accessible settings or assistance*

Numerous individuals who are eligible for CILA (by virtue of living in an ICF-DD or having been selected from the PUNS list) have been waiting months or years for placement. Providers have been unwilling to serve individuals whose conditions require them to have something different from the “typical” CILA resident. Individuals waiting for services include those with diabetes, stomas, accessibility needs, communication needs, and behavioral issues.

*Failure to provide CILA and other integrated residential settings that are person-centered with respect to size and geographic location*

Many class members have not been given an option for smaller settings, despite their preference for such settings. Similarly, many class members have not been able to find CILA placement close to home.

*Failure to provide flexible, person-centered day activities, including employment*

While there is widespread availability of “day treatment” and “sheltered workshops,” individuals who want something more customized, such as work, volunteer, or recreational opportunities, have been consistently told by various entities that such options don’t exist or are too difficult for CILA providers to facilitate.

As an alternative to findings of non-compliance, Class Counsel agreed to accept commitments in this year’s Implementation Plan to address the areas of non-compliance. Class Counsel is currently negotiating with the State about the terms of the Implementation Plan. To be acceptable to Class Counsel, the Implementation Plan (which is enforceable by the Court) must have detailed mechanisms, including specific funding and technical assistance mechanisms, to ensure that individuals with exceptional needs can receive residential services in the community; residential placements are customized to the size and geographic needs/wants of individuals; and

individuals have a meaningful day, customized to their interests and abilities.

**DDD LIGAS UPDATE:** Jim Eddings, with the Division, stated that as of April 1, 2015, 2262 of the Ligas members selected from PUNS were receiving services with 38 having award letters and seeking services. The Division has met its goal of having 2,000 members in services by June 15, 2015. The next service benchmark is to have 2,500 members in services by June 15, 2016.

The Ligas members who were residing in ICFs and are now receiving services total 1125. There are 33 other members in the process of selecting new services.

He also stated that the PUNS Manual is in the processes of being updated as part of the Life Choices Project.

Stephanie Leach, also with the Division, stated that the DDPAS-10 now lists separately CILA services.

Kit O’Brien-Cota, Bureau of Transition Services Chief, updated the Committee on recent activities regarding Ligas Transition Service Plans. (See attachment.) The Bureau of Transitional Services reviews the LTSPs when a funding request packet is received.  Mark Friedman, Consultant for the Ligas Transition Service Plans, has trained the BTS staff in completing a quality review of these plans. BTS staff began reviewing a sample of the plans in the fall of 2014.  Effective 1/15/15, BTS staff have reviewed 100% of the LTSPs included in the funding request packets.  If a funding packet requiring a LTSP does not have a plan included, the packet is returned to the ISC agency.  If the score on the LTSP review is at 52 or below, the packet and LTSP is returned to the ISC. Discussion of the LTSP Quality Review document identified that five ISC agencies did not have a LTSP to submit during the period of 1/1/15 through 4/16/15.  Also, a couple ISC agencies only submitted one LTSP.  Discussion also identified that the scoring includes three categories:  needs improvement, proficient, and excellent.   A score identifying “Proficient” is a very good score.

**COURT MONITOR UPDATE:**  **COURT MONITOR UPDATE:**  Tony Records, Court Monitor, opened his remarks with the announcement that the judge presiding over the Ligas Consent Decree, Judge Holderman, will be retiring on June 1, 2015.  A new Judge should be appointed soon. Tony then announced that he would also be retiring in October 2015.  He has informed the parties and is working with the parties to find his replacement.

In regards to the resources, the State is required to devote to the Ligas Consent Decree, he stated that Ligas “survived,” State fiscal year 2015 (FY15), noting that the funding remained intact for the Ligas Outreach Project, the Transition Planning Consultant and the Ligas Family Advocacy Project.  Proposed funds for FY16 however, he stated are, “problematic.” If adequate resources are not available, it could result in a return to court.

He also remarked on the “troubling” trend of an increase of individuals who are in crisis.

He also reminded the Committee that Paragraph 23 of the Consent Decree requires that once the goal of putting 3,000 PUNS individuals into services is met, the State must continue to place individuals at a “reasonable pace.”  The State, he said, must be prepared to continue its commitment to place individuals in services.

**CQL Video:** The Committee watched the video created by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) the Division’s outreach vendor. The video is available for viewing on the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=75298>

**Next Meeting:** The Committee will reconvene on July 21, 2015 from 1 to 3 pm in the ….

Executive Video Conference Room in the Clinton Building, Chicago and the Secretary’s Conference Room in the Harris Building.

Contact Dave Adden with any questions or comments related to the Ligas Individual/Family Advisory Committee: daveadden@illinois.gov or (217) 524-0848.