



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

5501 Executive Center Drive, Suite 101 • Charlotte, NC 28212

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Dempsey Benton
Secretary

Linda S. Harrington
Director

Voice (704) 568-8804
FAX (704) 568-8579

**DVR/CRP Meeting
August 27, 2008**

Members present: Ed Davis, NCDVR; Jim Pleasants, NCDVR; Jim Swain, NCDVR; Joan Wofford, NCDVR; Carl Thompson, NCDVR; Beth Newcomb, NCDVR; Tim Goodson, NCDVR; Tara Myers, NCDVR; Trish Harper, NCDVR

Davan Cloninger, LifeSpan/NCAPSE; Alicia Camacho, DECI; Patricia Little, NCARF; Julia Augustoni, Monarch; Carol Collins, Community Partnerships/NCAPSE; Beth Barwick, Easter Seals/UCP; Rhoda Miller (for Bonnie Morrell) DMH/DD/SA

Via telephone - Tom O'Brien, Industrial Opportunities/NCARF & Michael Maybee, Watauga Opportunities/APSE

Members Absent: Veta Cooper- Henderson, NCDVR

Ed welcomed everyone and introduced our newest members (Trish, Tara, Carol, Beth, Tom, and Julia).

He also reminded us of our meeting dates for this year – November 12 and February 4.

The steering committee is now on the VR Internet site for easy access to minutes, Rules & Standards, correspondence from Linda Harrington, and other important information regarding our committee.

There were no changes to our last meeting's minutes so they were approved as written.

I. Our meeting began with Ed distributing Linda Harrington's response letter citing her decision on a 3.5% increase to all outcome based programs as well as a 3.5% increase to the individual authorization rate which is now \$35.40/hour. While this was not as much as last year's committee had recommended, Ed reminded us that the increase was a bit more than in years past.



The DVR/CRP Steering Committee "Committee Members By-Laws" is chaired by Carl Thompson. (A copy of the By-laws was distributed). These changes allow the committee to remain fresh. The current list of members is available on the DVR Internet and Intranet websites. The consumer slot is still open...Ed will accept nominations today. Michael suggested that we should label the matrix as the "Steering Committee Profile Questionnaire." Per Ed...Linda Harrington was very pleased with our by-laws.

Moving Outcome Based Funded programs to Individual Authorization funding-Linda Harrington recommended that we need to provide more criteria in writing; therefore, Davan Cloninger and Joan Wofford will co-chair this subcommittee again in order to provide a more comprehensive list of criteria. Davan commented that they attempted to do this early on but was advised to keep it simple.

Ed distributed a copy of the DVR Home page (Internet) (<http://dvr.dhhs.state.nc.us/>) and noted the link to Community Rehabilitation Services which includes a comprehensive list of services and links for anything related to CRPs.

Our Rules and Standards provide us with a much more structured format for reviewing CRPs including a checklist that the regional specialists are working on. Davan wanted to know if this was to be used just for programs who were gaining national accreditation. Ed explained that the regional specialists were utilizing the required program reviews for current vendors.

II. Ground Rules - Ed encouraged us not to hold back but to respect everyone and their opinion. We don't vote - we discuss until we all agree on a decision. If there are things important to many of us, we can make suggestions for agenda items via email to Ed. Absences are strongly discouraged (see By-Laws) since we only meet 3 or 4 times. Three consecutive absences results in termination from the committee. We try to conclude at 1pm.

III. Proposed agenda for this year

1. Rates - Evaluation & Work Adjustment/PBF/90/10 payment split Jim Pleasants and Carol Collins to chair with Ed participation
2. PBF request to move to IA (#3) Davan and Joan to chair
3. Quality service tool- (#2) Carl to chair
4. MH consumers Jim Swain to co-chair with Michael Maybee
5. Transportation issues with Individual Authorization and OBF programs incurring higher costs just to serve consumers (time that is not billable) and possibly not being able to serve consumers in many rural areas who are at risk of becoming underserved or unserved - Beth Newcomb to chair

Per Ed, chairpersons can pull anyone together, just let Ed know who is involved and Ed will be involved with each group. Report back at next meeting in November. Trish is available as the accounting specialist for CRPs and she supervises Crystal (Nutly). Larry (Sutton) is no longer with us.

Chairpersons should be sure to meet prior to November in order to get close to achieving some progress.

Ed distributed the DOL regulations for Community Based Assessments (both paid and non-paid) and encouraged providers to use this service (see handout).

IV. Focus Groups (See handout)

There was a state office focus group that met on March 31 (see minutes that Ed distributed) and they agreed that there would be 3 focus groups, one for each region. (Minutes of each region are attached). The original state office focus group met again August 13 (see attached) and looked at all 3 regions' input. Beth reminded us that the West wanted a follow up focus group meeting in August, The East will have theirs at Trinity in September, and not sure about the Central region. Ed commented that at Trinity, they will be referring to the August 13 meeting with state office.

Discussion included the pros and cons to pulling out Vocational Evaluation. Tim G. reminded us that they captured the cost of the program to determine the total cost of evaluation (admin, staff salaries, floor space, etc.). Per Julia, she has heard some folks complain that they don't get paid for evaluation and with more folks coming into the program who don't make it to WA, there may be some benefit to getting paid for evaluations. Davan pointed out that the quality of referrals can impact programs wanting to get some compensation for evaluations but it also dovetails the issue with MH (Jim Swain's subcommittee). Ed reminded us that CBAs aren't just for students and that perhaps adults could benefit from this rather than a vocational evaluation. Davan explained that we may need to embrace the need to evaluate the global needs of the MI consumer. Ed's other option was not to deal with the benchmark rate but determine how many evaluations were done in the benchmark years and however many over and above that number, we would pay for. Ed wants the subcommittee to look at this. Per Ed, involve Trish and Tim G., as well.

90/10 split – MM explained that CRPs want the payment at 90 days of employment regardless of whether the case is closed or not. Julia pointed out that the contract says 90 days. Ed summed it up by saying that he hears programs saying the above. Jim reminded that there is an electronic change that needs to be made and Ed suggested DIRM get involved. Jim will consult with Trish, Carol, Alicia, Patricia, & Ed.

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PBF to IA – Davan and Joan will wait to hear from Ed after he speaks with Linda Harrington and will involve Trish and Beth Coberly.

Quality assurance check list – Carl, Ed, Michael and Tom O'Brien will work on this.

Transportation –Julia and Beth Barwick will work with Beth Newcombe on this.

MH – Jim will contact Gina Price along with Michael, Alicia and Bonnie (Morrell).

There was no other business to discuss and we agreed to meet again on **November 12**.