Dauphin County Human Services Block Grant Planning and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2016


The meeting was opened by Scott Burford, Block Grant Coordinator. He provided a general overview of the block grant status including the fact that the County has not received a 2015/2016 allocation letter from the Commonwealth as of the meeting date. In fact, the State has yet to pass a budget, although the County Human Service Funds have been released. We have been given verbal “unofficial” approval for 2015-2016 plan. We are operating under the plan as submitted and business as usual.

The County is working closely with CCAP and the other block grant counties to restore funding to previous levels in preparation for the 2016-2017 HSBG plan.

Before the State released the Block grant funds, Dauphin County Commissioners made the decision to continue funding the Human Services providers during the budget impasse. The County however was nearing the end of its tolerance and was only weeks away from pursuing a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN). Mr. Burford publically thanked the Agency Directors for their work on developing a contingency plan in the event the State funds were not released. Providers also thanked the Commissioners. Also were told that if there is any advocacy needed, providers would be happy to do for County, they would be happy to assist.

HSDF update provided by Randie Yeager:

- Central PA Food Bank numbers are high. Current FY we have assisted 991 individuals, 380 families.
- Meals on Wheels, current two clients. Lowest in six years.

Children and Youth update provided by Annmarie Kaiser:

- During her first five months, much time has been spent on filling key position vacancies. The staffing compliment is almost at full capacity with a few vacancies to be filled soon. An Education Liaison will be starting soon. Assistant Administrator and QA Manager interviews are scheduled.
- Currin ____ was introduced to the Advisory Committee as our new Program Director.
- The Samara Program is on within plan.
- Check & Connect has a small expansion in Harrisburg Schools (50 kids in one school.)
- The PRIDE program is within budget
- The MST program has experienced over spending, but a plan is in place to cover the overage.
D&A update provided by Cheryl Dondero:

- The goal is to be at full staffing complement in March.
- Advisory Board is nearly at full complement.
- Work on the Block Grant formula is progressing. Data requests were sent to providers.
- We have 30 Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) and we will be training 30 more.
- Vivitrol update was provided. Working with insurance companies to cover.
- Naloxone update was provided—Susquehanna Police used once and Harrisburg used five times. We are working with Probation on the development of training modules.

MH/ID update provided by Dan Eisenhauer:

- Staffing remains a focus area in our Crisis Intervention department. Part time staff is the most difficult to recruit. We converted 4 PT positions into 2 FT positions.
- Crisis work is steady and high volume.
- MH—we are trying to match revenue vs. expenditures and get state guidance on numbers. Medicaid expansion will make us closer to budget, not balance budget, but very close.
- We continue to focus on Housing, Employment and Community.
- We had a strategic planning session in November about forensic work at Judicial Center for better ID and referral.
- HAP, underemployed and rent is too high.

Scott Burford discussed the funding formula and described the indicators that make up the variables. The formula will be tested and ready by time we have narrative prepared.

Randie Yeager discussed the HS Directors Retreat summary and handed out summary.

No Public Comment was made. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.