

OPRA Facility Free Workgroup Notes

4/12/19, 10:00 a.m. to noon

- In attendance:
 - In Person: Jenna Allen, Melissa Morelli, Wes Birkhold, Amanda South, Rhonda Jacob.,
- Online Participants: Alicia Simms, Ashley Brocious, Beth Butler, Brenda Smith, Cece, Chel Olney, Janelle Wehrman, Kara McConnell, Kay Shellenberger, Laura LaGodney, Mary Fe D Tonya Reed, Trisha Huffman
- Review/discussion of questionnaire results
 - Lots of commonalities in survey results
 - Some challenges noted with scaling up
 - Many members still have facilities, but have small groups going out in the community: it is more difficult when supporting people with more complex disabilities
 - Some members have been providing community based services for quite a while, but only small pockets of people
 - Some members are in process of starting a group
- Definition of facility free services- means different thing to different people – for this group means using organizational facility as little as possible
- Most members in this workgroup are providing at least some community based services, but struggling with complex individuals
- Life builders is facility free with hubs in churches
 - Term some are using when individuals are not taken to any facility = “Direct pick up”
- Goals for Workgroup
 - Top five focus areas identified in survey:
 - Problem Solving
 - Sharing Experiences & Networking
 - Advocacy for Adequate Reimbursement Rates
 - Logistics/Best Practices
 - Training
 - Question to group: How would we like to structure the group and meetings to include these areas? Response: First two focus areas for now (Problem solving and sharing experiences/networking)
 - Question to group: Who else should we include? Response: Will invite stakeholders as needed
 - There are Co-chair and/or regional chair opportunities: email Jenna if interested if want more info (jallen@newavenues.net)
- Discussion about members awarded Innovative Business Strategies grants and asking them to report out to the workgroup
- Discussion about how to do activities in community in small groups that are person-centered?

- Focus on one individuals at a time in the group, make sure other group members are okay with it.
- Transportation Discussion
 - Discussion about using the same staff for NMT as day services so natural transition between services.
 - Some members are offering limited tranporation. Problem: Other NMT providers don't want to take people to a non-consistent hub. Smaller Cuyahoga county NMT providers are willing to meet varied tranporation schedules.
 - Different vehicles (sedans, minivans, etc) are already being used for to and form and the community. If groups are smaller, some use staff cars (unless need modifications)
 - Discussion around requirements for staff using their own vehicles
 - Discussion about scheduling vehicles in advance, using shared calendars, often times DSP reserve vehicles a month in advance, staff cars and organizational vehicle's sometimes break down making scheduling more difficult.
 - **Make transportation a regular meeting topic**
- Discussion about providing personal care in the community
 - Use of vehicle modified for personal care (franklin county
 - using space in churches, in ymca
 - taking people back to a hub for personal care
 - Discussion about selling the idea of community based services to families and SSAs - some families are okay but some are afraid of safety
- Discussion of timing of services/community integration
 - Discussion about people that don't want to be out and about all the time,.What times/days do they want to receive services? Some people want to be out a lot, some only a little. The new day services can be a huge shift for programs that used to be Monday through Friday days.
 - Increased use of HPC to provide community integrations, especially if people want the service in the evening and weekends. Some providers bill day array during day and HPC in the evenings and weekends for other events
- Discussion about forming community partnerships in the community:
 - Approach potential partners on what you can help them with
 - Community collaborative has formed in the Cleveland area -
 - Unpaid volunteer opportunities for voc hab can be difficult to finds
- Discussion about difficulties providing Voc hab in the community
 - One member uses skills to pay the bills curriculum in the facility, then trips out to community to look at different jobs, volunteering, job fairs, etc.
 - Voc hab is less stable for the provider because if you do well they graduate out of the group, so lots of turnover which makes it challenging (programmatic and financially) so may need to be funded differently
- Discussion about mixed groups of ADS and voc hab – but this can be confusing to staff
 - Some staff have trouble understanding how to provide both services at same time

- Try to keep people served with the same DSP when possible so DSP knows individuals and outcomes well but this is difficult with turnover, call off, etc
- Discussion about the struggle to find good training addressing community integration
 - most good training is offered during the time staff is working
 - Limited success with online training, need for in person training to supplement, or need to take online training as a group so can discuss
 - Some use OADSP for in person training
 - Some are partnering with other organizations
 - Perhaps a need for more train the trainer?
 - DSP Training could be done with the individual served
 - Training by sending staff to site visits and transformation summit (maybe OPRA can coordinate this?)Maybe year round? Life Builders is willing to let other members tour. They are in Westerville, Sunbury and Marion
- Discussion about who else should we include in these meetings – We will invite others as needed and the committee may evolve over time, we may find HPC and ICF members want to participate

Will be seeking others to share more formally on different topics

Meeting schedule: meetings will be on second Friday of each month. Next meeting is May 10th from 10:00 till 12:00