

MFP Stakeholders Meeting Agenda

•Life Skills and Transition Center and DD Division Updates – Keith Vavrovsky

Population stayed steady at around 150 people on campus for quite awhile and outside groups wondered why no one was leaving. Outside groups got a Taskforce made and it was legislatively mandated in 2005. Around the same number of people were being discharged as admitted every year. Between 12 to 25 people were coming in and being discharged every year. Have 12 Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) positions around the state, with 11 of those positions filled. These individuals work with people in the community that are working with private agencies to keep them in the community with new skills. Have an outreach program as well throughout the state. Current population in Grafton is 36 adults and 18 youth. The need is great enough that three times the amount of youth would come if possible. They are a bit over budget for population. Average length of stay at last data collection was 2-3 years. Goal is to become more of a Crisis Intervention and Stabilization program so people can return to working with their private agency. Children's program began in 2009 due to needs for that population changing. The program started at 5 and is typically between 16-22 children. They are able to meet with providers who may have individuals interested in joining the program. In 2023 the number of DD Transitions and ICF Transitions were up and surpassed the benchmark. This is expected to continue in 2024.

•MFP Operational Protocol-Pilot Project

Presented at the HCBS Conference. The draft template is in review with a new format. Some sections were added. Unsure at this time when it is due, but updates will be coming.

•ND Transition and Diversion Services Pilot Project-Jake Reuter

Name changed from ADRL due to similarity with the ADRL Link Line. Is called Pilot Project due to currently being a temporary service. Have transitioned over 200 individuals back to the community. Over 120 individuals have been able to remain in the community. Had to change eligibility – must be on Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion. If on Expansion, must be at 138% or lower of poverty. One person per household per lifetime, with exceptions for those on state programs. Still up to \$1,500 in funding available. No longer serving the homeless population. No longer purchasing entertainment devices. Income is required for Transition or Diversion. Items must be related to successful community living. 810 Referrals in 2023 – on track to continue increasing the number of referrals each quarter. 225 Transitions and Diversions with this program in 2023. Many referrals from Substance Use Treatment Centers, HCBS Case Managers, and DD Case Managers. When criteria changed, it was with the intent to decrease referrals, but program referrals have only increased. 766 TDPP Consumers received \$518,000 of funding in 2023. 86% of TDPP Referrals transition within 120 days of referral. Added 5 more full time positions for our Housing Staff, with 8 total Housing Staff designated for Pilot Project services.

- Housing Accessibility/Services

All four centers along with consumers and North Dakota Housing and Finance Agency (NDHFA) representatives met to talk about what Universal Design means and what is needed to put into new units to make them accessible. Reviewed the guidelines and provided feedback on what was currently included and what should be added. On March 5th, 2024 there will be another open forum to discuss this. The public can provide written comments on this topic from 02/14/24-03/01/24. Usually 20% of units are targeted to be accessible. Housing Services Collaborative is looking at the goals that need to be met and what these goals should be. Housing Authorities and MFP will be collaborating to get accessible units filled with individuals who need them, rather than just filling those units. NDHFA will be working also to find individuals who need the accessible units to fill those units, rather than just filling the unit.

- Workforce Technology Project-Jordan Wetsel

Protection and Advocacy (P&A) presented on how there are not currently enough QSPs and service providers in the workforce. Providers that are there are struggling to achieve Quality Standards. One of the solutions P&A is looking at is Assistive Technology (AT) to improve functional capabilities of individuals. The taskforce is researching technology, establishing pilot projects, researching funding, and conducting cost-benefit analyses on AT. Currently establishing a Pilot Project; on step 5 of that development. Individuals have been chosen and are working tech labs and vendors to find AT that meets the individual's need. Looking into Medicaid as a sustainable funding source for individuals to acquire and maintain AT. A question was asked about who was included in the Pilot and if individuals not on the DD waiver but used AT were considered for the Program. At this time they were not, due to the project looking at changing the Waiver structure and targeting the individuals with the highest need. Funding was expected to end in September 2024 but they are currently looking at alternative funding sources which would push the project until April of 2025.

- MFP Budget

Funding for MFP secured through 2027. Remained within budget in 2023. No estimate budget required for 2024.

- Supplemental Services

Supplemental Services officially approved in November of 2023. Supplemental Services are used prior to transition home to ensure that individuals will be successful after transition. Supplemental Services are 100% Federally Covered. Supplemental Services are only for MFP Consumers. Due to not receiving Social Security until someone has been out of the nursing home for 30 days, that can create food insecurity or clothing needs. Pantry stocking can provide 30 days of food up to \$1,000 per individual. Necessary clothing can be purchased. These items need to be on a separate receipt. If someone is re-

institutionalized for two months or longer, \$250 can be used for a pantry restocking. This is allowed up to 3 times in the 365 days of MFP Eligibility.

Residential modifications can be completed prior to individuals moving home. Up to \$15,000 per modification occurrence is available. Personal Technology not exceeding \$350 is available for technology to assist with community integration and decrease social isolation.

Smart technology is available for companion animals, as caretakers are for individuals not their animals. Companion animal support can also provide robotic pets. Home Repairs and deep cleaning can assist individuals in moving home but things need to be addressed prior to transition. Home or apartment set-up will also assist in providing a move-in ready home so there is less stress surrounding transition.

Assistive Technology and Specialized Equipment can be purchased to ensure individuals will remain in the community successfully post-transition. One time Health Supplies can be purchased to give the individual a 30 day supply of needed items while services and funding are being put into place.

Vehicle Modifications to increase vehicle accessibility is now available before transition so individuals can get around after transitioning. Pre-transition Transportation is also available so individuals can be involved in making decisions about their transition, including looking at apartments, picking out furniture, etc.

Budget/Credit Counseling will assist individuals and setting up success through sustainability for individuals who likely have not had to worry about budgeting or money management for awhile. Apartment Application or Administrative Fees will help individuals secure housing for transition. Unpaid Rent and Eviction Fees can be paid if this is a barrier keeping someone from being housed. Can assist with around 6 months of unpaid rent for this service.

There were 359 Total MFP Referrals in 2023. There were 137 MFP Transitions in 2023 and 134 in 2022 with a total of 912 MFP Transitions since 2007. MFP Benchmark for 2024 is 140 Transitions to include: 60 Older Adults, 50 Individuals with a Physical Disability, 23 Individuals with an Intellectual Disability, and 7 Children. Currently working with 93 individuals who have signed consent. Average days from consent to transition in the first 6 months of 2023 was 132 days. In the second 6 months of 2023 it was down to an average of 83 days. Top spending categories include Home Furnishings, Rent Deposit, Assistive Technology, Home Modifications, and Household Supplies.

•Quality Measure Set

Meeting on January 25th, 2024. Internally developing a team to decide what data to collect and report on. Data collection will be 2025 and reporting will be in 2026. Two voluntary measures will be reported on, but additional clarification is still needed. Using NCI-AD and NCI-IDD surveys for the reports. Is now a requirement of MFP to report.

- Housing Initiative Capacity

MFP Funds 1 Housing Initiative Coordinator and 8 Housing Facilitators. The ND TDPP Program also has 8 Housing Facilitators.

- MFP-Tribal Initiative

Looking to expand services to Tribal Members. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is on hold for advertising for an RN and are fully staffed with QSPs. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe working on future strategies. MHA Nation has a Pilot Project in the South Segment. Working on outreach and recruitment of Tribal members currently. MHA Nation will be one of the first to use the QSP Portal rather than paper applications. Melissa Reardon will be serving on the Community Health Task Force. Additional services are needed not only in Tribal Country but in rural areas as well. There will be a learning collaborative at the NICOA Conference in the state of Washington for all of the Tribes throughout the nation that are not connected to ND.

- Committee Round Table

Gibb said the ND TDPP Grant has been impactful to both himself and individuals. Mentioned how amazing it is to see how this amount of money can make a difference in someone's life and how this is some people's first apartment etc. Cheryl stated she has an opening for a Housing Facilitator in the Bismarck/Dickinson area. Julianne H. asked if there was a one-page document on supplemental services to share with individuals. Kayla clarified that the services are only available for individuals who qualify for the MFP grant so it may not be beneficial to share with groups. Julianne spoke about a grant that will help provide technical assistance and training and a taskforce that will help provide a picture of services for individuals with disabilities and aging individuals. They have 13 partners, and this will help develop a picture of services our state already has and what services we may be needing. Jeannie K. congratulated the team on Supplemental Services being approved.

Kayla mentioned she is looking at a rebalancing project for crisis service support for individuals. One example being that if an individual needs to stay in a hotel for extermination this service could assist in paying for that stay. Kayla also requested to hear more feedback from individuals who have utilized MFP and how they felt about the program. Veronica Z. asked if the crisis service would assist with natural disasters. Kayla said that was a great idea and really saw it as being a service to assist with emergency displacement. Kayla asked where individuals feel quality measures are lying and asked for feedback or where people believe quality could be improved.

A consumer at Freedom spoke about how she moved here from Arizona to live with her daughter and ended up in a DV Shelter. She mentioned how it was difficult to ask for help, especially with her disabilities, but that she came to Freedom and worked with Gibb and was able to transition into her own apartment with the ND TDPP Service. Gibb and Kaitlyn assisted with the Transition, per the consumer. Started working with Freedom a year ago. She was able to transition into an accessible apartment on the first floor to make

living on her own possible. Kayla asked if there was one thing in particular that helped more than anything. The consumer said the thing that helped change her life was being told she was worthy to receive the help. Kayla asked if there were any bumps or anything we can improve on. The consumer stated that there were no bumps in the process, and if there were they weren't noticeable. Jake mentioned that it was an amazing story and that it was amazing this was able to be done with a small amount of funding. The consumer mentioned how the \$1,500 was a lot of money, as she had nothing. Did not work with a Housing Facilitator, as they were not assigned at that time. Jake asked if there was anything that she thought would be helpful to add to the service or things we should do differently. The consumer stated that where she was living was for individuals 55+ or with a disability and that she sees people a lot who need support, a lot of times with bills/budgeting. She said people would need help finding other resources, and making plans/budgets for the future, and home cleaning. Jake summarized, saying that people need services to help them not just now when they move, but also going forward.

•Stakeholder Meeting Dates

May 7th in Grand Forks

August 6th in Minot

November 5th in Bismarck