

Community Support Network  
Executive Committee  
November 20, 2002

Present: Alan Greene, Bruce Pacht, Peter Blue, Bob James, Roy Gerstenberger, Jay Haines.

1. CSNI Financial Report.
  - a. Expenses are in line with budget and revenues are strong. We had a surplus of \$7,700 for the month and \$41,000 YTD, including a surplus for the Quality Outcomes Partnership Project.
  - b. Jay will RFP the CSNI FY03 audit in January.
2. Quality Outcomes Partnership Project
  - a. The consultant fee line has been underutilized, contributing to a surplus.
  - b. QOP results are now available primarily on line resulting in significantly decreased printing costs.
  - c. The QOP report for FY02 will be ready in early December. The area agency fiscal analysis will be missing one region's data this year. Jay reports that, according to financial ratio data, the fiscal strength of the system improved slightly last year; however, the system is running out of cash.
3. Family Support Partnership Project.
  - a. This project is closing out. Jay predicts a modest surplus (\$5,000) and recommends encumbering it for future updates of the futures planning manuals.
4. Family Friends Project. Very little financial activity since 8.02.
5. Self Insured Dental Plan.
  - a. \$4,000 loss for October with three regions having a significant discrepancy of expenses to revenue. Jay reviewed the claims and reimbursement data to ensure that this is normal variance for the group as a whole.
  - b. YTD surplus is about \$1,500, running significantly behind last year. We may want to reevaluate regional and collective experience at the end of year 2 (6.03) as well as our year-end surplus distribution formula. We also need to look at future rate adjustments for those continuing coverage under COBRA.
6. Meeting with Rep P. Batula. Jay met with Rep. Batula following the WL Committee hearing to address his questions about CSNI. Jay stressed CSNI accomplishments, collaborations and cost savings. Rep. Batula is still skeptical about the efficiency of area agency operations – based, apparently, solely on the size of our collective budgets. This false perception can be seen as a logical one for people not well acquainted with our operation and one that must be overcome with clear and convincing data from our efforts during the last eight years. One strategy: use the R5 WL Committee presentation as a template for regional and system wide data presentation.

7. Legislative group.
  - a. Jay attended last week's meeting of the Public Policy group where they recommended submission of a separate WL bill with a \$17 million fiscal note. Regions are invited to recruit potential sponsors.
  - b. CSNI strategic issues:
    - i. This was a unilateral decision by the PP group and does not represent a clear CSNI perspective/position.
    - ii. Should CSNI have a stronger presence at PP group meetings?
    - iii. L. Steir (active member of the PP group) does not – without specific approval – have the ability to speak for CSNI.

R4 joins the meeting.

8. CSNI/DS strategic meeting.
  - a. R12 submitted one additional ESS question for discussion this afternoon. The question referred to regional ESS program design/delivery differences.
9. DRC DD waitlist suit affidavit. There are still regional differences regarding the value/risk in signing. Attorneys from R6, R4 and perhaps other regions are reviewing. The Executive Committee perspective is that signatures should be by area agency directors, not CSNI as an organization. DRC requested signatures by Thanksgiving. R5 will advise them that this is not feasible. It would be best to have the opportunity to discuss this with all executive directors in the room.

Gordon Alan (DD Council Executive Director) joins us.

10. Governor elect's transition work. Gordon attended initial budget discussions – Benson was in the room. There are some global discussions by the Benson team about how to reduce eligibility standards in general. Neil Kirk remains a formidable opponent and also opposes funding for families providing care at home. Benson's budget should be released in mid-February. He seems to be thinking about a 3% average annual increase across all departments. He does not understand the complexity of the DD system.
  - o Strategic thinking:
    - If budgets must be cut, try to impact those with a loud voice.
    - Should we join forces with other long-term care constituency groups? This is already happening in some regions and may help to mitigate any institutional backlash specific to people with developmental disabilities.
    - Political clout is everything. We need to target the house and senate leadership.
    - Gordon wants to collaborate closely with CSNI.

Gordon leaves the meeting.

11. IT project.

- a. R6 had requested additional work specific to family support; however, this would have to be a separate negotiation (beyond whatever elements of family support data will already be incorporated in the service capture module).
- b. Strategy for expanding the contract with Approach:
  - i. Convene a task group to outline any new requirements.
  - ii. Have Approach quote on the additional work.
  - iii. Review and decide at a CSNI board meeting.
- c. Also noted by R4: due to current fiscal pressures, many aspects of our delivery system are in flux and being reconfigured regularly. We have to be very flexible in our thinking and not design in an already “dated” requirement.

12. NH Quality Outcome Partnership Project.

- a. There is still debate regarding some questions in Domain 8, e.g. whether to capture data on people with DD in nursing homes. The work group initially deferred several issues raised about questions in this domain. We agree that adding or deleting survey questions should be done by a joint CSNI/DS decision.
- b. Jay notes that we now will have three-year trend data. Also noted: the response numbers in some regions are not statistically significant. This may be a problem if the Division uses QOP data as part of the redesignation process.
- c. Jay notes that without thoughtful regional interpretation and use, the QOP data is useless. Strategy: convene a CSNI/DS workgroup to analyze three-year trends. We can discuss this at one of the CSNI/DS strategic meetings.