

## **Disabilities Services Advisory Committee**

### **July 25, 2006 Meeting Summary**

#### Opening Remarks

Assistant Secretary Hou welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their continued commitment to the DSAC. The meeting's agenda was outlined for the group. The outcome(s) for the day were to:

1. *Distribution of the Illinois Disabilities Services Plan Update* – The DSAC was provided with a brief review of the Governor's recently released report.
2. *Charge for the Committee* – The Co-Chairs discussed the future role of the DSAC.
3. *March 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary* – The DSAC was asked to comment, if necessary, on the March 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary
4. *FY 2008 DSAC Recommendations* – The DSAC was tasked with discussing the FY 2008 recommendations submitted by members prior to the meeting.

#### Distribution of the Illinois Disabilities Services Plan Update

The Governor's Illinois Disabilities Services Plan Update was distributed to the group. It was explained that the Governor took the hard work and input from the DSAC as the foundation for his report. There is no assumption from the Governor that the DSAC endorses the report, but rather there is an understanding that the DSAC fulfilled its legislative mandate to provide council to the Governor to develop a Disabilities Services Plan. The overwhelming majority of content of the Governor's report is the DSAC's work. Additionally, the Governor's report includes a section that outlines the DSAC's role.

The inclusion of a plan to move 200 people from an SDOC in the Governor's report was briefly discussed by the Co-Chair. The plan was added by the Governor's office and it is recognized that the DSAC did not have any control over this. Rather than spending time debating the inclusion of this language in the Governor's report, the Co-Chair recommended that the group begin to think about the future and what impact we can have.

#### Charge for the Committee

The DSAC Co-Chairs discussed the future role of the DSAC. It was acknowledged that Legislation originally guided the work of the Committee, and the Committee has fulfilled that obligation. However, the Committee was informed that the Administration has requested the continued advice and council of the DSAC to bring additional recommendations forward for FY 2008.<sup>1</sup>

The DSAC Co-Chairs reported on a recent meeting that Assistant Secretary Hou, Greg Diephouse and they participated in with Deputy Chief of Staff Louanner Peters and Bob Greenlee from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. The Co-Chairs were encouraged by Ms. Peters' support for having

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<sup>1</sup> It was clarified that the House Bill (HB 5386) is still active and on extended deadline in the Senate to provide an opportunity to discuss three to four remaining issues. The DSAC was also reminded that the group had decided it was not interested in coming up with a consensus language for the Bill.

the DSAC continue its work and provide further input to the Governor's office. Among the areas that the Governor's office is interested in are not just recommendations involving financial changes, but recommendations involving policy changes that can have a positive impact on programs for people with disabilities in Illinois.

Clarification was requested regarding the legal status of the DSAC since the group has fulfilled its responsibility. The Co-Chair clarified that the group is an ad hoc group that is serving at the request of both the Secretary of Human Services and the Governor's office. Assistant Secretary Hou also clarified that the DSAC will continue to operate under the same direction as it has previously. The Administration appreciates that there are still contributions to be made by the group.

### March 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary

There were no comments to the March 20<sup>th</sup> DSAC meeting summary.

### FY 2008 DSAC Recommendations

One of the primary tasks over the next few months is for the DSAC to create a set of recommendations that it can present to both the Governor and the Legislature as they begin budget making for SFY 2008. Prior to the meeting, official DSAC members were requested to submit their top three key recommendations for expanding community options for persons with disabilities in Illinois, in keeping with the original DSAC mandate, that require administrative or legislative change. To focus the group's efforts, members were asked to submit recommendations that target the specific systems change issues the DSAC has addressed during the past year, as opposed to perennial recommendations pertaining to broader system-wide change such as cost of living adjustments.

After discussion at this meeting a series of subgroup meetings will be held to refine these recommendations. The group will be broken into subgroups for each disability group to review the recommendations to clarify, synthesize and provide additional detail, if necessary. The subgroups would meet in August (later changed to September) and come back with their recommendations to the next DSAC meeting. There was some concern expressed that different groups working on similar issues could result in similar, but fragmented, recommendations. It was clarified that prior to the September Subgroup meetings, a smaller group would look at all group's work and synthesize common elements and themes to put together in a work product for the full group.

It was clarified that it was the intent for the subgroups to work by consensus and to provide two fiscal recommendations and two policy recommendations. The recommendations should be focused on things that can impact the system in immediate future. Additional recommendations from the subgroup not rising to the top (i.e., recommendations requiring attention, but perhaps at a later time) would also be submitted.

After reviewing the approach to developing recommendations by subgroup, it was suggested, and the group agreed, that a cross-disability subgroup would be appropriate to address recommendations involving multiple disability groups. A selection sheet was distributed to the DSAC members to identify their top subgroup choices.

Next, the group began a review of the submitted recommendations. Members submitted 36 recommendations prior to the meeting which were included in a document distributed at the meeting. The recommendations included in the document are true the language originally submitted and for discussion purposes, the recommendations were organized into groups by topic area. It was clarified that there was

still an opportunity to submit additional recommendations if any members had not already submitted them.

Assistant Secretary Hou explained that after the meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff Louanner Peters and Bob Greenlee it was clear that the group needs to think strategically about next steps that need to occur to move system to where we think it should be and that policy recommendations are an important piece of this.

Clarification was requested as to whether the “Funding – Targeted” and “Funding – General” recommendation categories cover non-direct workers. It was suggested that attention needs to be given to non-direct service workers and that there be recommendations related to the expansion of wage indexing and administrative costs. Co-Chair Art Dykstra clarified that it was not the intent for the group to provide recommendations related to cost of living adjustments because these are already being addressed in other forums.

The group next discussed the recommendations submitted by the DSAC members (See Attachment 1).

### Next Steps

A revised version of the recommendations reflecting the members' comments, clarifications and additions will be distributed to the group along with information for the subgroup meetings in August.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Note – Following the meeting, the subgroup meetings were postponed to the second week in September due to scheduling conflicts.