

Meeting: People First, the Self-Advocacy Project of New Mexico Listening Session.

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, September 20th, 12:00-2:00pm.

Location: Roswell Adult Center Room #22

80 People Total participated; 48 self-advocates and 32 "supports" (staff/family)

Question: Do you get to spend the day how you want?

Answers:

- Yes
- No
- Staff asks what I want to do.
- I ask Staff what to do.
- I like to spend the day with Staff and friends.
- I like to be alone by myself.
- Team lets me do things.

Question: How did you get your job (do you have a job)?

Answers:

- I have two jobs, work at McDonalds and Wal-Mart since July 2004.
- Someone got me my job. I like it.
- I work at Antigua. My choice.
- I have job supports.
- I am a Janitor. I clean. I love what I do.
- I volunteer at a Food Bank in Clovis.
- I work at a coffee shop. I am the Janitor. I get free coffee. I love it.
- I have worked at Sonic for 25 years.
- Peter Piper Pizza for 15 years.
- I work at the rest stop.
- I fill the pop machine.
- I work at the Trading Post cleaning the bathroom on the base, started last Tuesday.

Question: Do you think your Job Coach should be with you more, less, or just right?

Answers:

- Just right.
- I enjoy the Staff.
- I like the Staff.

Question: Do you get enough Therapy? Do you need more, less, or just right?

Answers:

- It's good.
- Therapists need more time, so the person can benefit from the Therapy.
- More 1:1 therapy time.
- Not enough therapy in the Region.
- Therapy should be more 1:1, not 3:1 ratio.
- Therapy should not be in a group, it is not personalized, groups take time away from the individual.
- Therapists take individuals to the movies for "group therapy".
- Therapists take them out to lunch.

Question: Would you like to be more independent? Who wants to be more independent?

Answers:

- Note: Lots of hands raised in the room (when this question was asked...almost the entire room raised their hand).
- I want to build on my skills.
- I want to go to college and live in the college dorm (Eastern New Mexico).
- I want to go out into the community by myself.
- I pay my own bills.
- I do my own house work.
- I pay my own bills, they write the check and I pay the bill. (question: do you want to learn how to write your own check?) No, I don't want to learn how to write the check.
- I want to ride my bike without someone with me....
- I want to work by myself and work with no job coach.
- I want to stay home by myself.

Question: How many people meet with your Case Manager prior to your ISP meeting?

Answers:

- Note: 4 hands raised.
- Pre-meetings are helpful.
- I have a meeting (pre-meeting) at home.
- I have a meeting (pre-meeting) in the community.

Question: Do you want to have a separate meeting to discuss the budget?

Answers:

- Note: When this question was asked, lots of people commented that they liked this idea.
- Meetings during the week interrupt my schedule.
- We have too many meetings.

- We don't focus on the budget during the meeting.
- During my meeting, money is discussed at the end of the meeting.
- It is working well now.

Question: Do you have transportation? Do you have any problems getting transportation?

Answers:

- My Staff takes me.
- Question: Would you like Uber as a service? Some people in the audience commented yes.
- Most transportation is provided by the (Provider) agency.
- Out of town travel and transportation is scary.
- I ride the bus by myself to work for over 3 years.

Question: Can you have friends over?

Answers:

- The only time we get to be with friends is at Day Hab.
- My friend has a car, so I can do whatever I want.
- My Mom/Dad take me.
- We have to have them out of the house by a certain time because of my sleep schedule.

Question: How many of you run your own ISP meeting?

Answers:

- Note: 3 people raised their hand.
- Most people commented they would like to run their own meeting.

Question: How many people have keys to your home?

Answers:

- Note: A few people (less than five) raised their hand but most people commented that they do not have their own key.

Question: If you are hungry in the middle of the night, can you get a snack?

Answers:

- Note: Many people all responded almost at the same time, No.

Question: Do you get to decide what time you go to bed?

Answers:

- "Low levels" can't stay up late, they don't get to choose when they go to bed.

Question from the Audience: Are Day Habs going to be allowed with the CMS Final Rule?

- Comments for DDS to consider:

- CCS-I is community only and DDS should consider allowing CCS-I in the community and facilities.
- Why can't people stay home if they want, if they are sick? Answer from DDS: Individuals can stay home if they want. Response from Audience: Agencies can't afford to have individuals at home due to the amount of limited funding. Answer from DDS: Agencies and teams need to have these conversations to support the individual at home based on their needs and balance this conversation within the budgeted amount. DDS agreed to consider the recommendation of allowing CCS-I in the community and facility.
- Conversation occurred regarding reverse integration. DDS agreed to get more information for the group on reverse integration specifically for Day Habs or Day Programs.

Question: Do you know you can request certain services like Personal Support Technology?

Answers:

- Most people do not understand what this is.
- We need more education and training about this service.
- We need examples of how it works.
- Can DDS offer self-defense classes?

General comments from the audience:

- People want to live by themselves.
- People have alone time but have to stay inside.
- DOH should consider allowing services in mother-in-law home for some individuals.
- We need more access to Office of Constituent Affairs, helping teams to work through challenges.
- We need possible service for advocacy.
- Guardians need education about people's rights.
- We need consistent guardianship resources.