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DHHS Clinical Review Team Formation

Moriah Geer
University of Maine

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DHHS Clinical Review Team Formation

Author-Moriah Geer, Faculty Mentor Dr. Alan Kurtz
NH-ME LEND, Contact Info moriah.geer@maine.edu

Community Partner Background

Historically individuals with disabilities were sent to live in institutions, such as Pineland Center. As public opinion about institutionalization and individuals with disabilities began to change the state worked to create programs to allow individuals with disabilities to live in their own communities. These Home and Community Based Services are funded through Medicaid waiver programs such as section 21 and 29. By the time Pineland closed its door permanently in 1996 the Maine Department of Health and Human Services had established support systems in communities across the state and set standards that an individual must meet to receive those services. The Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) administers these waiver programs.

NH-ME LEND

I interned at OADS for my leadership placement through the NH-ME LEND program. LEND (Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) sends students to work with community partners in order to give them the chance to develop their leadership skills in an organization whose mission aligns with the LEND mission. The purpose of the LEND program is to prepare leaders who will work with individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities in order to expand the professional workforce in this field and to begin to address health disparities. Some of the goals for the placements are to teach these future leaders to be **family centered, person-centered** and **interdisciplinary**. This placement has allowed me an opportunity to see the supports and services that exist for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Complementary Missions

OADS works to ensure that adults with disabilities are able to access the highest quality of care, to promote independence, health and safety and to maximize individual choice. The LEND program has a primary focus of working with children with developmental disabilities and their families. In order to truly meet the needs of the child and the family the program must also devote time to understanding and aiding the transition into adulthood for those children.

The Problem

The state of Maine has been working to establish a standardized assessment process to ensure that individuals who receive services through Section 21 and 29 are receiving the level of services that they need. In order to meet the needs of an increasing population of individuals in need of service and to ensure that no one is being over-served a Clinical Review Team has been established. The team is comprised of 3 social workers and 3 nurses who have all worked extensively in the field of disability services. They will be reviewing requests for additional supports to ensure that members receive the care that they need.

My Role

My role during my internship has been to assist in the formation of this new clinical review team in whatever ways possible. Some of the tasks that I have taken on include:

- **Data collection and analysis,**
- **Development of training materials,**
- **Assist in group formation, and**
- **Various other administrative tasks.**

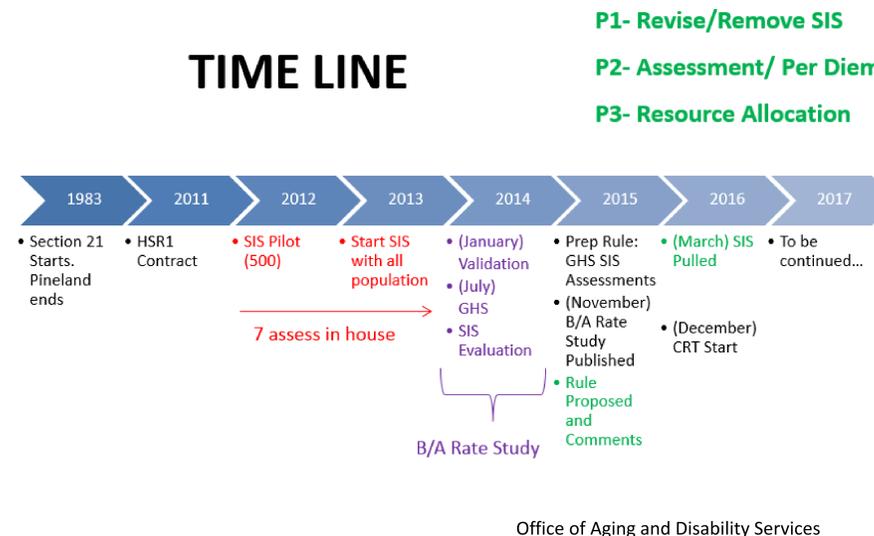
The best part of this experience is being able to watch the group formation process unfold. This group of people with different personalities, from different backgrounds and with different disciplines has learned how to function as a working unit. They respect one another and look to each other for feedback and advice.

What I Learned

The purpose of my time at OADS was to give me the opportunity to practice my leadership skills and to learn new things about what it takes to be a leader. Some of the most important lessons I learned are:

- **The importance of flexibility** - in the way that you think, in your expectations and in the way that you work with others.
- **Know the scope of your own work** and be able to let go of things that are beyond your scope.
- **It's ok for a leader not to have all of the answers** - it's better to wait and give the right answer.

TIME LINE



Developmental Disabilities – Since 2011, reimbursement for services to Mainers with developmental disabilities has increased by nearly **\$100 million, a 35% increase – serving an additional 1050 of Maine's most vulnerable.**

- 2011 Reimbursement: \$278 million; 4,128 members served by Section 21 and 29.
- 2017 Projected Reimbursement: \$376 million; 5,178 members served by Section 21 and 29.



Office of Aging and Disability Services