



community partners, inc

Supporting Maine People with Developmental Disabilities

April 11, 2016

Gary Wolcott
Director
Office of Aging and Disability Services
Department of Health and Human Services
41 Anthony Avenue
State House Station #11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

COPY

Re: Request For Meaningful Involvement

Dear Gary,

This letter is in follow-up to your visit to the Maine Association for Community Service Providers meeting of March 16, 2016. At that meeting, you invited an email to consider a request for convening a small group of diverse stakeholders to work with your Office in identifying new assessment and service delivery procedures for persons receiving Section 21 services. Please consider this letter the follow-up to your invitation for consideration.

Recognizing and believing your statements of the importance of collaboration, transparency and meaningful stakeholder engagement, the undersigned hereby formally request the following:

- 1) You agree to work with a small group of diverse stakeholders from start to finish in designing an alternative to the recently terminated SIS proposals.
- 2) The small group would include, but is not limited to, representatives appointed by:
 - a. The Office of Aging and Disability Services
 - b. The Maine Association for Community Service Providers (MACSP)
 - c. Maine Citizen Petitioners (The Petitioners)
 - d. Community Connect
 - e. The Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services (The Coalition)
 - f. Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board (OAB)
 - g. Maine Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (MDDN)
 - h. Speaking Up For Us (SUFU)
- 3) The group will propose a statement of agreement and operating mores at the first meeting.
- 4) The group will have minutes taken and distributed in a timely manner.

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Gary, there is much learning of benefit to the entire system following the SIS initiative. None of us want what occurred with the SIS to happen again. Moreover, we understand that true collaboration is difficult and takes focused attention. We also – like you – believe it leads to better results and the challenges are well worth it.

As many of the undersigned have said repeatedly, we share the goal of objective assessment of need and equitable deployment of resources. Collectively, we no doubt can design a system that builds on the successes achieved to date.

We are requesting formal response to this request by April 26, 2016. Additionally, we are requesting the initial meeting by May 13, 2106.

Please feel free to direct your reply to this letter to either Todd Goodwin individually or identified members of the undersigned as a group.

Respectfully,



Todd Goodwin
On Behalf of MACSP



Jennifer Putnam
On Behalf of MACSP



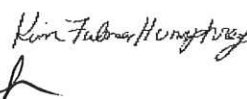
Mary Lou Dyer
On Behalf of MACSP



Peter Kowalski
On Behalf of The Petitioners



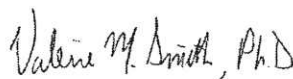
Richard Estabrook, Esq.
On Behalf of The Petitioners



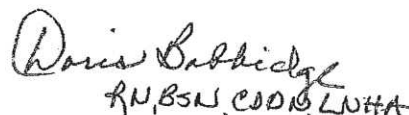
Kim Fulmer Humphrey, MPH
On Behalf of Community Connect



Cullen Ryan
On Behalf of The Coalition



Valerie Smith
On Behalf of OAB



Doris Babbidge, RN, CDDN, LNHA
On Behalf of MDDN



David Unger
On Behalf of SUFU

cc: Mary Mayhew, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Membership, Maine Association for Community Service Providers
Membership, Maine Citizen Petitioners
Membership, Community Connect
Membership, Maine Coalition for Housing & Quality Services
Membership, Maine Oversight & Advisory Board
Membership, Maine Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Membership, Speaking Up for Us