

COMMUNICATOR

How Will IF Work?



According to CCMH's IF guru), if a consumer is interested in Independent Facilitation they should tell their case manager as early in the process as possible because the consumer must sign a release of information before anything else. Every case management supervisor will receive a spiral bound notebook with profiles of the trained IF's for the consumer to look over. The case manager will contact the L'Anse Center Manager when a choice has been made and he will contact the IF. The IF's will attend both the pre-planning and PCP planning meetings.

The first IF-facilitated plan has taken place with some surprises. The final version of the plan was more holistic, including more community and natural supports than in the past. Everyone was very pleased with the result. The consumer commented, "I really like this and it was nice having another person there to help us."

The Baraga RICC Sponsors Independent Facilitation Training

March 2nd and 3rd were two exciting days at the Rice Institute in Houghton. The Baraga Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) hosted a training event to provide participants with the opportunity to learn how to act as Independent Facilitators. An Independent Facilitator (IF) is a third party who facilitates the Person-Centered Planning process. The IF is not an employee of Community Mental Health and responds directly to the consumer's desires, supports, services and personal outcome. The IF assures the consumer has an ally in directing the planning process.



In January 2011, prospective facilitators had a chance to attend a two hour introduction to the concept of Independent Facilitation provided by Angela Martin, LMSW. Angela is the Community Support Specialist from the Developmental Disability Institute (DDI) at Wayne State University and she is a lively and friendly presenter. She returned to the Upper Peninsula for this full, two day Independent Facilitator training. There were many goals for the training. By the end of the two days, participants were supposed to be able to define Independent Facilitation, identify the challenges to the IF process, articulate the benefits of IF, understand the significance of the IF component of Person-Centered Planning, understand how Mental Health Services are funded, identify the method of providing services and supports, explain the relationship between the Person-Centered Planning process and funding supports and understand the function of co-facilitation for the Person-Centered Planning process.

That seemed like a lot at the beginning but Angela led participants in hands-on activities to learn their part in the process. Participants were shown ways to diffuse conflict among team members. There were training exercises to learn how to find out more about the person through a series of questions. Learning how to ask questions without being intimidating proved hard, but with practice we learned techniques that left the "focus" person comfortable. In the last activity, the participants were asked to put what they had learned into practice. We worked in groups and chose a focus person to develop a plan for them. The Independent Facilitator, using pictorial and written forms captured the ideas voiced by all team members and was able to draw up a Person-Centered Plan that contained the focus person's goals.

After completion of this training, the participants were Level One Independent Facilitators and will receive a Certificate of Completion from the DDI. Then the real work begins as we work with our coaches and start providing consumers independent facilitation. Our hope is that more consumers will use this great opportunity for assistance now that they know that there is help

Trainee Comments

"I hope that Independent Facilitation will help me to help my consumers make better and more effective person-centered plans."

"As a parent of a Developmentally Disabled and Mentally Ill individual, I was eager to learn what was available for my son. I have discovered much through this training, focusing on strengths as opposed to weaknesses was something I was thrilled to hear about and I look forward to implementing as a facilitator."

"It's great to see the commitment of the CMH's and that really we're all working together to help the focus person."



Ten Secrets of HIPAA Security

1. Protect ePHI at all costs—your job and reputation depend on it.
2. Identify the types of data subject to HIPAA rules: PHI and ePHI.
3. Use strong pass-phrases and timer-based screen savers on all PC's.
4. Never leave open files and documents containing ePHI unattended.
5. Always scan for viruses, spyware, and other threats before installing new data or programs.
6. Always use encryption for email containing ePHI. Don't use email for PHI without it.
7. Always file, shred, secure, or otherwise properly dispose of ePHI.
8. Protect ePHI on computers, cell phones, PDA's, fax machines, portable storage media, etc.
9. Immediately report security violations to your Supervisor.
10. If in doubt about what to do, ask your Supervisor or HIPAA Security Officer.



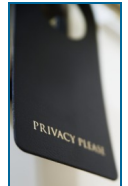
Easter Candy Quiz

1. How much do Americans spend on Easter candy each year?
 - A. \$200 million
 - B. \$500 million
 - C. \$1 billion
 - D. \$2 billion
2. How do the majority of young children prefer to eat their jelly beans?
 - A. One at a time
 - B. By the handful
 - C. Sort them by color
 - D. The majority doesn't like jelly beans
3. Approximately how many chocolate bunnies are sold each Easter?
 - A. 1 million
 - B. 35 million
 - C. 60 million
 - D. 76 million
4. What is the most popular Easter candy?
 - A. Chocolate eggs
 - B. Chocolate bunnies
 - C. Jelly beans
 - D. Marshmallow peeps
5. How many marshmallow peeps are sold each year?
 - A. 100 million
 - B. 600 million
 - C. 700 million
 - D. 950 million
6. How do the majority of children eat their chocolate bunnies?
 - A. Feet first
 - B. Ears first
 - C. Tail first
 - D. Broken into pieces
7. What is the most popular jelly bean flavor?
 - A. Strawberry
 - B. Cherry
 - C. Grape



Ten Points of HIPAA Privacy

1. Protect ePHI at all costs—your job and reputation depend on it.
2. Access, use or provide only the Minimum Necessary PHI to accomplish the task.
3. Cover, turn over, or lock PHI that is not in immediate use.
4. Report accidental or willful disclosures of PHI to your HIPAA Privacy Officer or supervisor.
5. Do not discuss PHI outside of the work environment for any reason.
6. In emergencies, put patient care ahead of all else—including HIPAA.
7. Always dispose of PHI according to current policies and procedures.
8. When you must discuss PHI, lower your voice or move to a private area.
9. Protect PHI on computers, cell phones, fax machines and other devices.
10. If in doubt about what to do, ask your Supervisor or HIPAA Security Officer.



B.Z. Toons

by Brian Zaikowski



MAE - Mothers Against Everything