



Mentors



for Self Determination

PA TRAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND FAMILIES

MENTOR MEMO

April 2006

Issue 2

Mentors for Self Determination (M4SD) is a member of the PA Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families. We offer trainings in the Central Region for the Partnership. M4SD also provides opportunities for people to attend our Family Connection presentations across the state.

Mentors for Self Determination (M4SD) are pleased to send you our second Mentor Memo for 2006! M4SD are a group of dedicated, actively involved, and knowledgeable self-advocates and family members. We offer this information to you to assist you to have a better understanding of what is going on in the MR System in PA.


Mentors for Self Determination is a member of the PA Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families. We provide opportunities for people to attend Trainings in the Central Region and we also offer our Family Connection presentations across the state. Descriptions of both opportunities are listed below.

Our Mission is to provide people with current, accurate information on the Mental Retardation System. Our vision is making self determination a reality for everyone.

M4SD offers *Family Connection*, an informal information sharing, question and answer session for families and self advocates. Together with families and self advocates, Mentors present information and brainstorm to assist self advocates and families to resolve problems and issues surrounding the Mental Retardation System in Pennsylvania. Unlike training, *Family Connection* is a small personal session where people share their life experiences to promote understanding of the system. Mentors encourage families to network with each other and with other agencies and resources in their counties. Family connections have been made in Crawford, Franklin, Lehigh, Lycoming, Philadelphia and Pike counties this year. If you would like a *Family Connection* at your location please call or email Mentors for Self Determination to set up a date and location.

The new PRIORITIZATION of URGENCY of NEED for SERVICES (PUNS) forms became effective on April 4th. If MR Services are currently needed or services will be needed within the next 5 years, the new PUNS will be completed during the annual review of the Individual Support Plan (ISP) or upon request due to a situation change. Individuals and families will be required to sign the new PUNS and will receive a paper copy within 15 working days of the annual review or update.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Understanding the Mental Retardation System: PUNS is a training offered by The Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families. See page 2 of this newsletter for the current training curricula, the Partnership web site (<http://www.temple.edu/thetrainingpartnership/>) for training schedules, or to contact Mentors for Self Determination (M4SD) at the numbers below. Also, in June The Partnership will be adding Transition from school to adult life to the curricula.





Understanding the MR System in PA: Background, Getting into the System and Sexual Abuse Awareness Training has been created by and for Self Advocates. These trainings are all presented by self advocates. Call or email M4SD to request a training at your location today.

Below is Mentors for Self Determination's (MS4D) schedule of Central Region PA Training Partnership Trainings for people with disabilities and families trainings. Check the Partnership web site: www.thetrainingpartnership.org, call or email M4SD for further information or registration.

- May 23 Understanding the MR System an Overview 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. & 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. St. Mark's UCC Church, Lebanon
- May 30 Understanding the MR System an Overview 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Country Cupboard, Lewisburg
- May 31 Understanding the MR System an Overview 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. First English Baptist Church, Bloomsburg
- June 14 Self Determination, PUNS and the Self Advocate Training: Class 1: Self Determination, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Penn Stater, State College
- July 20 Understanding the MR System - An Overview 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Franklin County, Location: To Be Announced
- Aug 9 Understanding the MR System - An Overview 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., Skills in Altoona.

Understanding the Mental Retardation System: An Overview—This training is an introduction to Mental Retardation System in Pennsylvania. It offers a brief history of the MR System, an overview of what the system looks like and how to register. We discuss eligibility determination, what the system can offer in terms of the types of supports and services available, and how they are funded. We also address what you can do if you have problems accessing needed support.

Understanding the Mental Retardation System: Waivers—This training describes the two waivers available through the Mental Retardation System in Pennsylvania. We define "waiver" and discuss the step by step process for registering with the Mental Retardation system and applying for Waivers. We discuss the eligibility criteria for waiver services, the types of services and supports available, and how to develop a plan. We also address the steps taken by families when they have problems accessing supports and services.

Understanding the Mental Retardation System: Self-Determination—This training is an introduction to self-determination. It offers a brief history of the self-determination movement, and describes the principles of self-determination and Everyday Lives. We offer information about some of the tools and supports associated with self-determination and how to teach everyone to lead a self-determined life. We address ways in which we can promote self-determination in our own lives, in the community, and in the Mental Retardation system.

Understanding the Mental Retardation System: PUNS—This training offers information on the newly developed Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services. We discuss the changes in the form, the reasons for the changes, and review the entire form to ensure that families understand each category in Emergency, Critical and Planning. It describes how the PUNS form should be completed, how the county and the state use PUNS information, and how families can use the PUNS process to help them understand the supports and services available to them. We define individual supports, transportation, vocational supports and residential supports as outlined on the form. We also address what you can do if you disagree with the information on your PUNS form.

Contact M4SD to schedule a Partnership Training in the Central Region.
1-877-233-2008 Toll Free
www.mentors4sd.org (coming soon)



In April of 2006 the Office of Mental Retardation (OMR) submitted a statewide contract to every county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This contract is an agreement between the OMR and the county commissioners on how mental retardation funds will be administered; currently each county can administer funds as they define need.

Statewide QUALIFICATION FOR PROVIDERS will become a mandatory process in July of 2007. During the pilot year, July 2006 through June of 2007, counties are expected to contract with any provider that has a signed Medicaid Agreement with the State of Pennsylvania if:

- an individual with a waiver requests the services of the provider
- the provider agrees to serve a person
- the provider's costs for services are consistent with efficiency, economy, and are adequate to provider quality care

Enclosed is THE PENNSYLVANIA WAITING LIST CAMPAIGN'S new brochure. WE CAN, WE WILL, WE MUST, END THE WAIT. The brochure lists how you can obtain services starting with registering with your county's mental retardation office.

Are you registered to vote? Registering to vote is the first step in educating your elected officials about how legislation affects you. If you need a voter registration form, contact Mentors for Self Determination.

CONTACT INFORMATION

MENTORS FOR SELF DETERMINATION
(M4SD)
1414 N. CAMERON STREET, SUITE B
HARRISBURG, PA. 17103
1-877-233-2008 toll free
717-233-2252 office
www.mentors4sd.org (coming soon)
dleaseure@mentors4sd.org

REGIONAL OFFICES OF MENTAL
RETARDATION
Northeast Regional Office, 570-963-4391
Southeast Regional Office, 215-560-2247
Central Regional Office, 717-772-6507
Western Regional Office, 412-565-5144

The PA TRAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND FAMILIES –
education opportunities
www.thetrainingpartnership.org

PA WAITINGLIST CAMPAIGN – address
the waiting list for mental retardation
services
www.pawaitinglistcampaign.org

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
www.dpw.state.pa.us

OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE – Need help, to get information, answers to questions, and to file complaints
1-888-565-9435 toll free