

Texas' First Microboard
A TIME LINE OF DEVELOPMENT

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HISTORY OF MICROBOARDS

- Motivation of Jim (deceased husband) and Martha to develop a wrap around program for Seth that would be there when the parents were no longer available.
How may a parent assure the future of their family member with a disability?



Seth- 2007

HISTORY OF MICROBOARDS

- Solution was found in Canada. There the Vela Corporation is a governmental agency that assures parents that their wishes will be followed by a governmentally funded microboard.
- The founders of the microboard concept were Faye and David Wetherow. They started helping parents plan for the future of their family member who was disabled.

Seth -2013



HISTORY OF MICROBOARDS

- Microboards were seen as a “line of protection” for individuals who were disabled and needed a support system across the lifespan.
- The concept focused on supporting one person with a corporation that was dedicated to the quality of life of that one person.
- Community volunteers served as Board of Directors for the individual’s microboard

HISTORY OF MICROBOARDS

- Microboards are found in Canada, Europe, and in approximately 18 states in the USA
- In the USA, microboards have taken many forms such as cooperatives where families work together to develop a corporation.
- Tennessee, Illinois, Maryland, and other states have state agencies that are like the Vela Corporation in Canada

WAYS TO GET STARTED

- Found out about Section 8 Housing under HUD.
- Found out about becoming a provider under Home and Community Services waiver.
- Found out about Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services requirement to become a provide under HCS waiver.

WHAT IT TOOK TO GET STARTED

- In 2001 attended a workshop in Texas that featured Jaylon Fincannon from Tennessee and David Wetherow from Canada who talked about ways to provide services in Texas.
- Studied HCS guidelines about housing options, direct care requirements, direct funding, and lifespan planning.
- Met with other parents to find out their plans and concerns

STARTING THE MICROBOARD

- In 2003, incorporated under the Texas Secretary of State office in Austin.
- Received an Employee Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS to hire personnel.
- Attended training from DADS on how to become an HCS provider.
- Received provisional certification as an HCS provider on October 26, 2009

WAYS TO GET STARTED

- Worked with church members to explore how to involve volunteers, church members, and community resources in lifespan supports and accommodations.
- Talked to family members about their involvement in forming a corporation in Texas with a Board of Directors, Executive Director, and staff members participating.

WHAT IT TOOK TO BECOME CERTIFIED

- Learned more about being a business. Acquired a Tax Identification Number (TIN) a National Provider Number (NPI) with specified categories that reflected provision status from DADS as a provider.
- Learned to write a business plan, to develop a policies and procedures manual, write by-laws for the corporation, and trained Board members in their role.

WHAT IT TOOK TO BE CERTIFIED

- Developed volunteers from the community to handle franchise taxes, cost reports, and business management practices.
- Translated DADS review criteria into required procedures to run daily services, set criteria for quality control, and to develop staff roles and responsibilities.
- Developed staff training for each staff member as part of ongoing basis of quality control

NEED TO KEEP UP WITH CURRENT ISSUES

- Billing guidelines must be monitored.
- New rules from DADS must be implemented
- Staff must be involved in management and rule changes so that they know why change is happening
- Microboard topics, such as PATH training, person centered training, cooperatives development, and maintenance of services required

WHAT IT TOOK TO BE CERTIFIED

- Worked with nursing services to meet required training of all nursing personnel.
- Worked to understand the importance of having Registered Nurses (RNs), the importance of having Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), and physician orders to cover medical services.

NEED TO KEEP UP WITH CURRENT ISSUES

- Keeping contact with other providers to learn about their methods and ideas.
- Sharing with community networks. SMSM accepts all inquiries for services under HCS so practices have been developed to help other parents and families.
- Being involved with service delivery systems, changes in case management and services, and events impacting on waiver programs.

NEED TO KEEP UP WITH CURRENT ISSUES

- Must maintain training of staff and measure reliability of meeting criteria that DADS uses for reviews.
- Two reviews have been passed without any discrepancies since starting.
- Staff understands the uniqueness of the microboard and takes leadership in seeing quality is maintained

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- When Seth was in the program with a previous provider there were problems in his behavior
- Seth's care involves expenses that are not covered by waiver program, such as carpet cleaning due to bowel problems, extra expenses for clothing lost to bowel problems.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- It was discovered that key medical issues in the annual plan of the previous provider were not being followed.
- It was discovered that behavioral issues that were to be addressed were not being implemented.
- It was found that food issues, nutrition, and diet plans were not followed

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- There is a day program (instead of the day hab he was previously in) that allows Seth and his attendant to be in the community 5 hours a day for shopping, gym, library, parks, visits, and other community activities.
- Seth has membership in a gym and in the park designed for persons with disabilities
- He rides the bus with his attendant without problems

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- A Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA) was hired to set up behavioral plans, train staff to collect data, and implement systematic interventions to correct behavior.
- Nursing staff was contracted with flexible management plan. Nurse is more involved in the microboard than in previous providers contract.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- Seth's brother, who is a family man, now is Chairman of the Board of Directors and is learning how to relate to his brother's services and still have his own family, work, children, and sports time.
- Seth's mother continues to network in the community and be active in committees, agencies, and disability organizations in San Antonio.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- Seth has gained weight, his behavior has changed, he is more involved in using his computer, going shopping, visiting the park, the gym, and recreational facilities, riding the bus to go to events.
- His bowel problems have not gone away. His most recent colonoscopy was rated outstanding by the physician. His bowel health now is properly managed.

Seth in 2007

