

LONG-TERM-CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

Senate Lounge – State House

Providence, Rhode Island

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Co Vice-Chair Neil Corkery, who noted that Lt. Governor Fogarty was attending funeral services for Christopher Potts, a member of the National Guard who had been killed in Iraq. Co-Vice Chair Corkery called for a moment of silence in memory of Sgt. Potts.

In attendance were:

Neil Corkery, Co-Vice Chair, Anna Tucker, Co-Vice Chair

Maureen Maigret, Executive Director Senator June Gibbs

Maria Barrows John Young (for Dir. Hayward)

Mary Benway Bill Jackson

Corinne Calise-Russo Al Santos

Cynthia Conant-Arp Bonnie Sekeres

Dr. Herb Constantine Cindy Soccio

Bob DiCenso Sr. Marietta Walsh

Ray Rusin

Guests:

Paula Parker Frank Spinelli Susan Leone

Brenda Archambault Joan Kwaitkowski Judy Jones

Bob Caffrey Kathleen Kelly John McLaughlin

Joan McLaughlin Terry Leary Kelly Lee

Marie Ganim Ann Gardella Dr. Vincent Mor

Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2004 – Upon motion of Mr. DiCenso, seconded by Ms. Sekeres the minutes of the September 8, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report – Ms. Maigret provided the Chairman's Report on behalf of Chairman Fogarty.

Booming Into the Future II, a forum co-sponsored by AARP, LTCCC, Brown Medical School and Fannie Mae was hugely successful. Ms. Maigret reported that this year they had exhibitors' tables and they were booked within a matter of two weeks. She predicts that Booming Into the Future III will be scheduled for next fall.

Nursing Facility Closure Task Force. The next meeting of this task force is scheduled for tomorrow, October 14th at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Robert Quigley, Chair of the Health Services Council will be among the presenters.

Chairman Fogarty had an opportunity to tour Building #79 at the Pastore Center which has been selected for use and renovation as the new agency on Disability Resource Center and the Department of Elderly Affairs. \$4.3 million is included in Referendum #12 on the ballot on November 2nd for these renovations.

Assisted Living Surveyor position. Ms. Maigret noted that this position has not as yet been posted and indicated that the Chairman

will pursue the status of this position which Governor Carcieri had promised last month.

RI HEALTH Monthly Survey Report – Ray Rusin, DOH

Ms. Maigret noted that as requested after the last meetings she had convened a small group to review content and format for the reports to be provided to the council on substandard care. She noted that the suggestions from this group had been provided to Lt. Governor and a decision had been made to provide reports that would include instances of substandard care using the federal definition as well as instances in which a compliance order had been issued. This would cover those facilities which had had a "G" level deficiency that was not corrected or a "G" level that was repeated during the survey year. She provided a handout which was a coversheet to be used with the report and emphasized that the report is still a work in progress. (See Attachment #1). Mr. Rusin confirmed that he had been in discussions with Ms. Maigret regarding the format and content of the report and distributed copies of the report for October. (See Attachment #2). Ms. Rusin noted that the reports would include comments relative to follow-up on the plans of correction and revisits. Mr. Rusin noted that the facilities cited for substandard care had an issue with hot water and that the state treated this as a serious matter in that in the past a nursing home resident had died as a result of scalding water. He also noted that in addition to this particular deficiency the nursing home had had other issues but that the hot water issue had been corrected immediately when it was brought to the facility's attention.

Committee – Project Report – Commission Reports

A. Fall Prevention Partnership – Ms. Maigret reported on upcoming dates for the

Strategic Planning Group that is working with the Department of Health Injury

Advisory Committee to develop strategic plans on fall prevention with an emphasis on

community dwelling seniors. The dates of the meetings are Thursday, October 28th

at 2:00 p.m. at AARP; Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at AARP and on

Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at Quality Partners of Rhode Island.

Final Report from the Joint Legislation Commission to Study the Implementation of a Funding Index for Private Community-based Providers Operating Pursuant to Contracts with the State of Rhode Island – Co Vice-Chair Corkery reported that a coalition had been formed with about 158 agencies participating to reach consensus on the need for establishing a provider index for community based agencies. The work of this coalition was used by the legislative

commission in developing its recommendations. The commission was chaired by Representative Slater and issued a final report which was provided to all members of the council. (See Attachment #3). The report supports instituting an index based on a national home health market basket which is a published index. Mr. Corkery noted that the coalition hopes the Governor will include funds in the budget for FY2006 to begin to implement the recommendations for the provider index. If this is not the case they will look to the legislature to make these budget adjustments. Mr. Young reported that the usual figure for this index was about 2.5 percent.

Assisted Living Residence Waiver – John Young, Associate Director at DHS

reported that there had been about 190 persons on this waiting list when the court

suit was settled via a court order. The departments have been looking at the

Medicaid aging and disabled community to see if they can add assisted living

services to this list. Hopefully they will be able to do so and to submit amendments

to the waiver to CMS in November. In this event approval

would be expected by January. This would result in some persons who have been

on the wait list being accepted into the A & D Waiver Program. He noticed that

some persons on the wait list may not be eligible for Medicaid due to assets, income

or clinical needs.

Presentation by Vincent Mor, PhD – Brown University Research Findings on Nursing Home Quality and High Medicaid Use Inter-state Variation in Survey

Intensity -- (See Attachment #4).

Summary of Dr. Mor's presentation discussion. There is tremendous variation and deficiency results across the country. Generally more deficiencies are noted in the west than the east coast states. Dr. Mor said, "we don't actually really know about these enormous deficiency variations". The system is a complicated one but his research has shown that we do in fact have a two-tier system. Nationally two-thirds

of nursing home residents are on Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Nursing homes are affected by market economies much more so than hospitals. Nursing home use has decreased in part because the total population of 65 and older increases the denominator and thus the percentage gets smaller. There has been a substantial increase in the case mix index which shows that nursing home residents have greater care needs. Research also shows that nationally per diem rates for nursing homes have increased in constant dollars. In some states minority persons are more likely to be in lower tier homes. Dr. Mor has several recommendations including:

Decrease the inequities in social investments for nursing homes

Training programs to upgrade management (this could include rewarding managers who work in under served areas with high population of lower social economic individuals)

End game strategies which would include paying premiums through risk pools to nursing homes willing to provide care for displaced Medicaid residents when a facility closes.

Dr. Mor closed his comments by predicting that the use of Medical Assistance in Rhode Island would probably increase in the future as it will across the country. Part of this will be due to the immigrant population that is expected to increase. A compounding factor however is the fact that people prefer home care and assisted living if at all possible.

Other – Announcements

AARP and the Ocean State Senior Olympics will be having a "Walking

Your Way to Better Health" walk on Saturday, October 23th at 10:00 a.m. at Daggett Farms. (See Attachment #5).

AARP and The Village at Hillsgrove will be having a presentation on "Top Frauds and Scams" conference on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (See Attachment #6).

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 313 – State House.