

LONG-TERM-CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Room 313 – State House

Providence, Rhode Island

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

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Fogarty.

In attendance were:

Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, Chairman

Maureen Maignet, Executive Director Dr. Louis Marino, Jr.

Maria Barrows Angelo Rotella

Corinne Calise-Russo Ray Rusin (representing Dr. Nolan)

Cynthia Conant-Arp Al Santos

Dr. Herbert Constantine Karen Smith

Dick Freeman Susan Sweet

Sr. Marietta Walsh Judy Davis

Roberta Hawkins Bill Jackson

Elizabeth Morancy Bonnie Sekeres

Guests:

Paula Parker Kathy Heron Larry Grimaldi

Deb Hogan Joan Kwaitkowski Kristen Pono

Roberta Merkle Mark Lesault Rebecca Therriault

Judy Jones Ann Berman Mary Bennett

Jeff Taylor Ralph Rodriguez Patricia Molloy

Margaret Sullivan

Chairman Fogarty presented citations to Paula Parker in recognition of November as National Home Care Month and to Liz Morancy in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Chairman Fogarty thanked them for hosting the pre-meeting coffee break and acknowledged their commitment and efforts to serving Rhode Islanders with such dedication and passion.

Chairman Fogarty presented a citation to Roberta Hawkins in recognition of her 27 years of service to long term care residents, clients and their families. He noted that he had the citation prepared for the October meeting but had to miss that meeting as he was attending funeral services for a member of National Guard killed in Iraq.

Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2004 – Upon motion of Ms. Sweet seconded by Ms. Sekeres the minutes of the October 13, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Fogarty reported that the Nursing Facility Closure Task Force would hold its next meeting immediately at the conclusion of the full council meeting today. He thanked members of the task force for their efforts during the past few months and said he anticipated the final report would be ready within a few weeks.

Report on RWJ Oral Access Health Project/Services for NH Residents

—
Joan Kwiatkowski, CEO, CARELINK

Ms. Kwiatkowski reported that the grant period for the project goes through September 2005. They are in phase I of the project in which they have been collecting information and data. They have found through survey work that 56 percent of Rhode Island nursing home residents have dentures. In response to a question from Ms. Maigret she reported that this is typical nationally. They are in the process of developing alternative business models that address how dental services in nursing homes are used and paid for. One concept is to expand the use of dental care extenders. Another possibility might be greater use of the Samuel's Dental Clinic which is developing a dental training program that will include a geriatric rotation. They are testing two models economically. They have found that about 10 percent of nursing homes residents still use community dentists. A resource list is being developed for providers. They have also found out that about 70 percent of dentist offices in the state are not fully handicapped accessible. Ms. Russo noted that the Alzheimer's Association keeps lists of dentist who are willing to work with patients with dementia.

Chairman Fogarty asked Ms. Russo if DEA had a Plan "B" for locating their department in light of the fact that the bond issue on the November 2nd ballot which would have included money for renovating building #79 had not passed. Director Russo stated that they were working on developing a Plan "B".

RI HEALTH Monthly Survey Report – Ray Rusin, DOH (See

Attachment A).

Mr. Rusin reported that in the month of October no facilities had been sited for substandard care. Of the eight facilities which had annual surveys, one, Roger Williams Acute Care, was deficiency free and seven received survey reports outlining areas of concern that needed to be corrected. He noted that the plan of correction for Oakland Grove Health Center in Woonsocket had been received and accepted on October 25th. He also noted that the Harborside Greenwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Warwick had a follow-up survey on October 27th in which deficiencies in most areas of concern had been corrected. However, some areas remain to be corrected and the water temperature was found to be cold and not within the state required temperature ranges. A plan of correction is anticipated by November 15th and will be reported to the council. Facilities Regulation will also begin to conduct bi-monthly state monitoring visits. A plan of correction was filed and found acceptable for Haven Health Center of Greenville and the facility is pending a follow-up survey to confirm compliance. Facilities Regulation will also conduct bi-monthly state monitoring visits of this facility. Mr. Rusin reported that in addition to the "stop admissions" order placed on Haven Health in Greenville, the director had issued a second order requiring that the facility contract with an independent management consultant to develop and monitor goals and objectives in certain areas relating to quality care. Ms. Maigret asked if this is something the director had the authority to do in all cases. Mr. Rusin answered that in this case the director was able to do this because of the conditions that had been placed on

the facility's license when it had a change of ownership. One of the conditions was that an escrow account was established which gave the facility a source of funds to address quality issues. Mr. Rusin said he was not sure whether the director could make such an order absent this type of condition. Mr. Rusin also noted that Health has adopted a policy under which it will notify medical directors and attending physicians immediately when a facility is issued its survey report and problems are noted as they found this was not being done in a timely manner by the nursing homes as required by law. Mr. Rotella raised the issued that on certain survey findings and enforcement actions a facility would be ordered to stop any nursing aid training programs that they were conducting and this was difficult for some facilities.

Report on Medicare Advantage 2005 Programs and Medicare Rx Drug

–

State Outreach Grant – Corinne Russo, Director, DEA

Director Corinne Russo reported to the Council of the 38,158 RIPAE enrollees only 7,800 have enrolled in the new Medicare Transitional Assistance Program. DEA has received a \$1.9 million grant from CMS to provide information on Medicare Part D and to do certification required for Medicare Part D. Ms. Russo said that the department appears to be on target for its FY2005 RIPAE budget despite the fact that there has been a very low uptake on the new Medicare Transitional Benefit Part. Ms. Sekeres suggested that DEA make a

special attempt to register people for this transitional benefit program onsite at elderly housing. Ms. Russo explained that the department had done two mailings to low income persons to enroll to give them information about the transitional program and to let them know that they would be automatically enrolled by the end of the year if they met the income criteria. Ms. Sweet suggested that there was a need for greater education of pharmacy community on new benefit drug program and how it coordinated with RIPAE. Several members talked about problems that seniors have had at drug stores relative to coordination of the new Medicare benefit and RIPAE and what appeared to be some misinformation being provided at some pharmacies to seniors. Ms. Smith noted that HUD has been working with CVS to promote information in senior housing about the Medicare drug benefit. Director Russo passed out three attachments. (See Attachments B, C and D).

Report on Assisted Living Waiver – DHS Staff Invited

This item was deferred as no one from DHS had been able to attend the meeting to provide an update on this program.

Committee – Project Report – Commission Reports

Fall Prevention Partnership – Ms. Maigret reported that the Injury Advisory Council Fall Prevention Strategic Planning group would be meeting at 2:00 p.m. today at AARP headquarters. She thanked all members of the partnership who are participating in this project.

LTCCC Budget Report FY2004 – Ms. Maigret

Ms. Maigret reported that work would begin on the development of the FY2004

budget report and asked departments to be on the look out for memos from the LTCCC requesting the standard information.

XII. Announcements and Public Comments

Ms. Conant-Arp raised the issue that some of the community agencies have not received their legislative grants from DEA as of yet. Chairman Fogarty asked Director Russo about this. Ms. Russo said that all legislative grants coming through DEA have been approved and processed by the department. She was not aware of any bottleneck and that if there was a bottleneck that it would be at the Department of Administration. She will check on the status of the grants right away.

Ms. Morancy reported that the Alzheimer's Association would be having a free lecture in celebration of Alzheimer's Awareness Month on November 18th at the Holiday Inn and all members of the Council were invited to attend the lecture which was featuring Rhode Island native Rudy Tanzi, PhD who would be talking about generic research and Alzheimer's disease.

Al Santos asked if anyone had more current information on the status of the flu vaccines for nursing home residents. He had been told that nursing homes should get 100% of the flu vaccines that they need but

did not know if this would include employees. He raised the issue of the flu mist vaccine and whether or not the individuals receiving the flu mist vaccine would be made to stay out of work for a period of time. Dr. Constantine said he did not know the answer to Mr. Santos' questions but would get back to Ms. Maigret with any information he is able to obtain.

Kathleen Kelly asked if residents of assisted living programs would also be eligible as one of the high risk groups and Ms. Conant-Arp requested the same thing regarding clients of adult day care centers.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled

for Wednesday, December 8 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 313 – State House.