

LONG-TERM-CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Room 313 1st State House

Providence, Rhode Island

Meeting Minutes

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. with Maureen Maigret, Executive Director, serving as acting Chairperson. Ms. Maigret explained that Chairman Fogarty was ill today and had asked her to conduct the meeting. There being no objection, Ms. Maigret proceeded to serve as acting chairperson for today's meeting only.

In attendance were:

Maureen Maigret, Executive Director Bill Jackson

Maria Barros Patrick Quinn

Mary Benway Ray Rusin

Kathy McKeon (rep. Dir. Calise- Russo) Al Santos

Kelly Lee (rep Cynthia Conant-Arp) Bonnie Sekeres

Jim Flanagan Judy Davis (rep. Cindy Soccio)

Kathy Heron (rep Roberta Hawkins) Gail Hebert (rep. Bob DiCenso)

John Young (rep. Dir. Hayward)

Guests:

Bob Caffrey Kathleen Kelly Jim Benedict

Christopher Novak Cindy Lussier Sue Oberbeck

Jim Nyberg Mary Forgue Kathy McKeon

Allan Tavares Don Williams Mark Lescault

Mary Bennett Paula Mottshaw Frank Spinelli

II. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2005 iV Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Quinn, the minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

III. Chairman's Report iV

1. Ms. Maigret reported for Chairman Fogarty on the Auditor General's report on the Office of Facilities Regulation at the Department of Health. (See Attachment #1)

She noted that a summary of the report was distributed to all Council members and that the full report was available on the Auditor General's website.

2. The Auditor General provided an overview of the findings before the Permanent Joint Committee on Health Care Oversight the previous Monday, March 7th. Ms. Maigret briefly discussed certain

findings of the report. She noted that the LTCCC Task Force on Nursing Facility Closures had not conducted an in-depth review of the complaint investigation process for nursing homes as they knew that would be included in the Auditor General's report. She noted that the Auditor General's report did find that there were significant differences between the processes required for complaint investigation and follow-up mandated by the federal government and the state and there needs to be a reconciliation of these processes. She also noted that the report identified significant resource gaps in the Department of Health and that the report found that HEALTH was able to comply with federal mandates but was not able to comply with state mandates. She particularly noted that HEALTH had not been able to comply with the requirements to do two additional interim surveys annually or to conduct the bimonthly inspections of nursing homes found to have sub-standard care.

3. Mr. Williams noted that another problem for the department was that they only had three persons to investigate reports of complaints regarding persons who had professional licenses. This includes physicians, nurses and all others who are required to be licensed under state law. Ms. Maigret indicated that she believed the Permanent Joint Committee on Health Care Oversight would be addressing the findings and recommendations in the report. She also noted that the Auditor General's report made certain suggestions relative to financial monitoring and reporting that were very consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Council's Task Force on Nursing Facility Closures.

IV. Legislation and FY 2006 Report

„h Ms. Maigret provided copies of an updated Long Term Care Legislative Tracker (See Attachment # 2) and noted those pieces of legislation that had already had a hearing or had a hearing scheduled. She requested that if anyone wanted a particular bill added to the list for tracking purposes to let her know.

IV. Committee 1V Project 1V Commission Reports

A. Fall Prevention Partnership 1V Ms. Maigret

„h Ms. Maigret reported that activity in the area of fall prevention continued. On February 9th RIHCA had conducted a Fall Prevention Workshop for nursing home employees featuring Jo Taylor, a nurse expert on fall prevention from Emory University Center on Aging. She thanked Mr. Santos for inviting her to the workshop and noted that it was very successful with about 150 persons in attendance.

„h On April 27th, Ms. Maigret reported, RIAFSA would be holding their annual conference, which includes a workshop on Fall Prevention to be presented by Bonnie Sekeres, with Ms. Maigret and Dr. Pat Burbank from URI participating. The workshop will discuss the Model for Prevention Program being developed by Shalom Apartments with a grant from the National Administration on Aging. Ms. Sekeres noted that Shalom was submitting for a second grant in this area and hoped to be able to expand their model to include adult day centers and other settings.

„h Ms. Maigret reported that the LTCCC, in collaboration with CareLink, would be conducting a workshop on use of behavior modification techniques and consumer fall prevention. This workshop will be scheduled for late May or early June and feature Dr. Pat Burbank, a geriatric nurse expert from the URI College of Nursing. Ms. Maigret also noted that the objectives and strategies relating to fall prevention that had been developed by the Fall Prevention Task Force for the Department of Health Injury Advisory Council had been accepted and incorporated into the injury prevention grant the DOH had submitted to the CDC. She distributed copies of the objectives (See Attachment # 3) and requested that members of the Council review the objectives and begin to incorporate those actions consistent with their programs, as this would be a good beginning to implement the objectives in this area. Ms. Maigret noted that the Fall Prevention Task Force would reconvene once the federal grant had been officially obtained to discuss further implementation and resource needs regarding the state objectives for fall prevention.

B. LTCCC Budget Report FY 2004 ¶V Ms. Maigret

„h Ms. Maigret reported that she now had financial information from all departments and was reviewing what additional information on services was still outstanding. She hoped to have a budget report completed by the end of April for distribution to Council members.

VI. RI HEALTH Monthly Survey Report ¶V Ray Rusin

(Note: HEALTH presented out of order listed on Agenda)

A. Mr. Rusin indicated he would be making his report verbally but will provide a written report to Ms. Maigret to be included in the official minutes for the meeting. (Addendum A)

For the month of February, seven nursing facilities were surveyed and none of them had sub-standard quality of care issues. Harborside - Greenwood Nursing Home is on a bimonthly schedule following a finding of sub-standard care. Haven Health in Greenville is also on the bimonthly schedule of survey visits following findings of sub-standard quality of care. Mr. Rusin noted that three out of the four nursing homes, which had been on an "Enforcement Track", were now in compliance. These facilities are: Village House in Newport, West Shore Health Center in Warwick, and Haven Health in Pawtucket. One nursing home remains on the Enforcement Track, Kent Genesis Regency in Warwick. An unannounced visit will be conducted to determine if they are now in compliance.

VII. Presentations

1. Survey of SSI Residents in Assisted Living - Frank Spinelli, DHS

Mr. Spinelli provided an overview of this survey and its results. (see Attachment # 4) Mr. Spinelli noted that the survey was done with the assistance of the New England States Consortium and Rhode Island College. Of the 600 clients on the SSI Enhancement Program for Assisted Living at the time the survey was done, 108 completed surveys. The results show that 80% of the clients perceived that they

have access to routine medical care. Gaps in services related to the areas of nutrition counseling and education, mental health services, dental services, and the need for activities and socialization. Mr. Spinelli reported that the department will be following up on the gaps addressed in the survey and have already started to address, in collaboration with industry leaders from assisted living, the findings related to the significant amount of time being spent by clients as *“idle time”*.

2. Update on Nursing Home and Home Health Quality Reporting *“V”* Sue Oberbeck, HEALTH (See Attachment #5)

Ms. Oberbeck provided a report on the process and status of the nursing home Family and Resident Satisfaction Survey Program. She provided a copy of the survey that was used during the pilot stage for the Family Satisfaction Survey and various Council members discussed and commented on the survey. Ms. Barros raised the issue of capacity to accommodate persons for whom English is not their primary language and Mr. Quinn made several comments relating to the wording in the content of the survey. Ms. Oberbeck thanked council members for their suggestions and comments. She reported that the pilot phase of the family survey was completed and the resident pilot phase was in the initial implementation stage. She noted that 15 persons would be hired as interviewers to conduct the surveys on a face-to-face basis with the selected sample of nursing home residents. The interviewers will not be medical care persons

but will be trained to work with nursing home residents. She noted that following the pilot phase, both surveys will be conducted and completed for a public report with the first public report projected to be ready at the beginning of 2006. Ms. Oberbeck also reported that a workgroup had been formed and had met on two occasions to discuss the process of moving forward to implement a consumer satisfaction survey for the home care industry. She noted that this presents a number of challenges, as this has not been done in any other state. Financing of such a report may require obtaining grant monies, as unlike the nursing home industry there is not an efficient way to pay for this type of survey due to home care reimbursement methods being different than that of nursing homes.

3. Choices Coalition Agenda |V Bob Caffrey (See Attachment # 6)

Bob Caffrey gave an overview of the work of the Choices Coalition, which had started back in 1997. It includes a range of home and community care providers, including Meals on Wheels, adult day services, assisted living, respite services, and home care. He noted that when the organization formed, the reports done by the LTCCC showed that 6% of state funding on long term care was being directed toward home and community care. Last year's report showed this percent had increased to 10%. While there has been progress, it has been very slow. Mr. Caffrey noted that the lack of a provider rate increase for over three years for home and community care providers has exacerbated staffing issues. He noted that there is insufficient

staff capacity in the home care industry to serve all those who are seeking care. Council member, Mary Benway, a home care provider, noted that unlike nursing homes there is no set methodology for determining home care rates and that her agency has been having difficulty accommodating clients, especially on weekends and holidays and in certain more rural areas of the state. Kelly Lee, representing the adult day care industry, noted that adult day care is one of the state's best bargains and that the state only provides \$37.11 per day to cover the costs and that this represents only about 40% of the true costs of providing care. Kathleen Kelly, representing the assisted living industry, noted that the Council had been very supportive of promoting affordable assisted living for low-income persons. However, the lack of funding for the additional 180 approved units in the Assisted Living Waiver Program was very problematic and resulted in very long wait lists for service for persons wanting to use this service. Ms. Maigret noted that the Choices Coalition agenda was very consistent with the Long Term Care Council's 2005 Work Plan and included one of the Council's recommended pieces of legislation addressing funding of the Assisted Living Waiver Program. She noted that several council members had been excused and that there was not a quorum. However she indicated it would be useful to have a motion to support the Choices Coalition agenda so that those present could officially be on record of being in support of the agenda presented. Sister Marietta Walsh moved that those present support the Choices Coalition agenda, the motion was seconded by Patrick Quinn and passed unanimously. Ms. Maigret

noted that individuals can attend Senate and House Finance budget committee hearings on the Department of Human Services and the Department of Elderly Affairs budget to express support for the Choices Coalition agenda.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comments

„h Mr. Quinn noted that two pieces of legislation addressing the Family Independence Program should be added to the Legislative Tracker: S525 and H5806, introduced by Senator Gibbs and Representative Dennigan. Mr. Quinn also indicated that the U.S. Senate was starting its budget deliberations and that it was important for Council members to indicate to both Senator Reed and Senator Chafee their opposition to any cuts and changes in the Medicaid program that would be harmful to the state and its residents. He urged members of the Council to contact the senators in this regard. Ms. Maigret noted that the Council-supported resolution opposing federal Medicaid cuts was being heard in the Senate that afternoon by the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Gaming Issues.

„h Ms. Maigret introduced Mr. Allan Tavares, the new Executive Director of the Partnership for Home Care, who is replacing Paula Parker in that position.

„h Ms. Maigret noted that former Representative Thomas Lamb, an original sponsor of the legislation to establish the Long Term Care

Coordinating Council, and a man considered to be the “Father of Home Care in RI” had passed away over the weekend. She noted that his services would be this afternoon, with a funeral tomorrow and requested that the Council adjourn with a moment of silence in his memory.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon with a moment of silence in memory of Representative Thomas Lamb.