

LONG-TERM-CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Room 313 – State House

Providence, Rhode Island

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Maigret, Executive Director of the LTCCC at 10:10 am.

Ms. Maigret explained that Chairman Fogarty was detained at an emergency meeting at the state Emergency Management Agency and was hopeful that he could join the meeting at some point. Ms. Maigret explained that due to the circumstances, she would be re-ordering agenda items.

In attendance were:

**Maureen Maigret, Executive Director
Roberta Hawkins
Maria Barros
Jane Hayward**

Allen Barroso (rep. Angelo Rotella) John McGehearty

Mary Benway Sen. Elizabeth Roberts

Corinne Calise-Russo Al Santos

Cynthia Conant-Arp Karen Smith

Dr. Herb Constantine Kathleen Spangler

Bob DiCenso Frank Spinelli

Jim Flanagan Susan Sweet

Sen. June Gibbs Anna Tucker

Dr. David Gifford Paul Tencher (rep. Sec of State's office) Cindy Soccia Sister Marietta Walsh

Guests:

Kathy Heren Roberta Merkle

Paula Parker Alan Tavares

Kathleen Kelly Susan Saccocia-Olson

Susan Leone

Mark Lescault Media:

Joan McLaughlin John Castelucci

John McLaughlin Delia Gonsalves

RJ Heim

PACE Project Update

Ms. Maigret explained that Jennifer Jaswell would be giving the PACE Project update as Joan Kwiatkowski had an unanticipated change in her schedule.

Ms. Jaswell, Marketing Director for the PACE Project, provided a handout (Attachment # 1) describing the PACE Program and indicated that it was scheduled to open in September of 2005, with outreach to begin in August 2005. Eligible persons include those who are: 55 years and older, certified to require nursing home level of care, and are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Ms. Maigret asked what geographic area the program would cover in terms of the enrollee's city or town of residence and the ability of the

program to transport them to the PACE site which is on Chapman Street in Providence. Ms. Jaswell indicated that the program is intended to be statewide and that satellite programs may be developed in the future in the northern or southern parts of the state. Ms. Jaswell noted that CareLink was recruiting staff for the program and anyone interested can contact her.

Dr. Gifford raised the issue of credentialing of professionals who may be coming in from out of state and the need to start the process fairly soon in order to have it completed by the September scheduled opening date.

LTCCC 2005 WORKPLAN – Midyear review – M Maigret/LTCCC Members

Ms. Maigret lead a discussion of a document showing the status of the LTCCC 2005 WorkPlan's action steps at midyear (Attachment # 2). She asked Frank Spinelli from the Department of Human Services to provide the update on Item #1 relating to a Long Term Care Information System.

Mr. Spinelli noted that a final draft for an RFP for a data module needs to be reviewed by the state's chief IT officer, which should take place within 40-60 days. A November contract award is anticipated. This project is a three-year project containing three phases:

The first phase will integrate claims data with existing assessment data from DHS, DEA and some MHRH data.

The second phase will look at connecting additional databases that are maintained separately by the various departments.

The third phase will develop a web-based eligibility system for

programs.

Mr. Spinelli noted that 90% of the funding for the project is coming through Medicaid match from the federal government. The total cost of the program will be in the \$10-15 million dollar range, however the state contribution will only be \$1-1.5 million dollars.

Ms. Hawkins and other Council members congratulated Mr. Spinelli for his extensive work in developing the proposal and moving it forward.

B. Ms. Maigret asked DEA Director Russo to provide a status report on Item # 2 – Implementation of the statewide computerized long term care information resource guide.

Director Russo reported that at present the DEA Pocket Manuel is available on the ADRC website and that work is being done to expand this website into a comprehensive resource center.

Mr. Spinelli added that an RFP was issued and five proposals were submitted and are being evaluated for a pilot program.

Ms. Maigret asked if the internet-based resource guide would include all long term care providers such as nursing homes, assisted living and adult day care centers with information on whether or not they accept government-funded clients. Mr. Spinelli said that this had not been part of the original plan but could certainly be considered on a phased-in basis.

Ms. Maigret asked Director Russo to comment on the status of Item # 4 – Implementation of the One-Stop Grant Project.

Director Russo explained that due to the failure of the statewide bond

issue to renovate a building on the Pastore complex for use as an ADRC Center, the project component to have a centralized "ONE STOP" center is delayed for several years.

She noted that progress has taken place with the SAMS-Synergy System upgrade and that now all case management agencies are online.

She stated that a call-tracker system is being put in place and that a uniform, comprehensive assessment tool is being used.

An RFP for six access assistance agencies utilizing new funds is also being developed. This new system will have the capability of handling evening and weekend requests for assistance.

Finally, the Director noted that a letter of interest was being developed to implement a call center.

Ms. Maigret asked how the call center would integrate with the existing elder information specialist program. Director Russo said that it is anticipated that calls going into the call center would be referred to the appropriate elder information specialist location.

Ms. Maigret noted that in regards to Item # 12 – the Rhode Island Foundation had facilitated a series of meetings to develop an action plan to address the issue of oral health for nursing home residents. She asked if anyone present could give an update on this process.

Ms. Hawkins noted that she had been concerned about this critical issue for a number of years and was pleased to see that some positive action is taking place and that she or her staff members had participated in the meetings.

Senator Roberts provided some background on the history of the

Rhode Island Foundation initiative. A grant of \$50,000 had been provided by the legislature in the prior year's budget. This grant money had been eligible for Medicaid match and was channeled to the Rhode Island Foundation, that was using a small amount of the grant money to facilitate the current series of meetings. At the second meeting, a representative of an innovative program called Appletree described their project to serve nursing home residents using mobile dental services. A representative of the American Dental Association also described another model in which dental directors were being reimbursed under the Medicaid program. Senator Roberts explained that the balance of the fund would be used as seed money to continue to develop an appropriate model for RI and that this model could also look at using under-utilized capacity at the Eleanor Hospital dental operatories.

In regards to the other action steps, Ms. Maigret noted that she had provided information on their status at mid-year in the document distributed and she asked members to review the information provided and to email her if there were any additional items that should be included in the status report.

Note: Ms. Maigret noted at this time that she had received a message that Chairman Fogarty would not be able to attend the meeting as he was still involved in the emergency meeting at the Emergency Management Agency.

Legislation and FY '06 Budget Reports – LTCCC Legislative Tracker

Ms. Maigret brought up discussion of Item VI on the Agenda -

Legislation Report.

She noted that a Legislative Tracker (Attachment # 3) had been provided that had been updated on the afternoon of June 14th and discussed further changes to the Tracker that had taken place following its preparation.

Item #2 on page 6 – needs to be corrected in the status column for S831 as this bill was not passed by the Senate.

Item # 8 on page 9 – S815 – is on the verge of passage by both chambers as noted by Senator Gibbs

Items # 18, 19 and 20 on page 13 – were passed on 6/14 by the House Finance Committee and H6552 on page 14 was also passed by House Finance.

The original "Germaine Morsilli Act" had components that have been incorporated into the Long Term Care Reform package put forward by the Joint Committee on Healthcare Oversight. The revised "Germaine Morsilli Act" House Bill, 6550 SUB A, was passed on the House floor on 6/14.

Senate versions of the Long Term Care Reform package are scheduled for a vote today by the full Senate to include S1134 SUB A, S1135 SUB A, S1136 SUB A, and S1138 SUB A.

S1137, introduced at the request of the Attorney General, was still being worked on and was scheduled for a hearing in Senate HHS this afternoon.

Senator Roberts discussed the long term care legislation and gave an overview of the process used by the Joint Committee in developing

the legislation. She noted that it was a unique process in that the Chairs of all the major committees that would be involved in final consideration of health care legislation were members of the Joint Committee on Healthcare Oversight. Senator Roberts recognized the work of Senator Gibbs as a Republican member of the Joint Committee on Healthcare Oversight.

Ms. Maigret noted that provisions of Item #11 on page 5 had been incorporated into the new "Germaine Morsilli Act", H6550 SUB A and S1135 SUB A. These provisions relate to the posting of nurse staff levels and development of annual reports on nursing staff levels.

Senator Gibbs discussed the Legislative Tracker and noted that the bill authorizing the state to initiate the PACE Program was on its final way to passage, which was very relevant as the PACE Program is scheduled for implementation in September.

Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2005

Ms. Maigret noted that the minutes needed to be corrected to indicate that acting Director Kathleen Spangler had been present and not a guest. Upon motion of Ms. Barros, seconded by Ms. Hawkins, the minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

Chairman's Report

A. Ms. Maigret noted that in the absence of Chairman Fogarty, she would provide the Chairman's report and reported the following:

In addition to LTCCC Members announced at the May meeting who are White House Conference on Aging delegates or alternates, Sr.

Marietta Walsh and Maria Barros are also alternates.

She thanked Quality Partners of RI and the Alliance for Better Long Term Care for partnering with the LTCCC to present the June 2nd Forum: "Quality Innovations in Nursing Home Work and Care: The Vision of Culture Change." This program was very successful with over 80 persons attending including both Sen. Roberts who moderated the panel and Sen. Gibbs. The LTCCC will once again work with AARP RI to sponsor a BOOMING INTO THE FUTURE meeting this year. This will be the third annual event and is scheduled for September 19th. The program will focus on Livable Communities with Bill Thomas, founder of the EDEN Alternative, as the featured speaker. This will be a nice follow-up to the Culture Change Forum and complement the culture change work being done by Quality Partners and a number of the state's nursing homes.

Ms. Maigret stated that following the tragic murder and rape that took place at Beechwood Senior Living in Central Falls last week, Chairman Fogarty was pleased to see that HEALTH will be conducting an investigation of the incident and that the Chairman had specific questions he wanted HEALTH to answer as part of the investigation. She also noted that the Providence Journal had reported that Jane Hayward would also be leading an investigation. Dr. Gifford noted that HEALTH would be reviewing the specific incident. Ms. Hayward reported that her investigation would be a more comprehensive review to take place over the summer months that would look at the appropriateness of existing laws and regulations governing assisted living. Sen. Roberts asked if this

would be a public process at all. Ms. Hayward stated that there would be opportunity for public involvement. Ms. Maigret noted that, at the recommendation of the LTCCC, a survey of persons on SSI living in assisted living had been done by DHS and that it showed a high level of mental health issues among these residents. The survey, which was completed late last year, found that 58% of the residents surveyed who were under age 62 years were receiving care from a Community Mental Health Center and that 47% of the respondents indicated they needed mental health care. This confirmed what had been reported anecdotally by several LTCCC members for a number of years. Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Flanagan noted that this is an issue they have been concerned about and one needing attention. Ms. Maigret asked if Ms. Hayward would include this issue in her review. She also requested on behalf of Chairman Fogarty that Dr. Gifford's investigation include answering the following questions:

Was Mr. Leddy adequately screened for appropriateness for assisted living – was he being subsidized by the State of Rhode Island?

Was the administration of Beechwood informed of Mr. Leddy's background of violent criminal activity?

It appears that Mr. Leddy was either on parole or serving a suspended sentence at time of murder. Was he being supervised by Probation, Parole or the Courts?

Do we have policies in place to require notification of a facility when a resident has such a violent backgrounds?

Are there other ex-offenders with similar violent histories residing in other assisted living residences?

Ms. Maigret reported that the next meeting date is scheduled for Oct. 12th. In the interim, she will provide members with the HEALTH Monthly Survey Reports via email.

RI HEALTH Monthly Survey Report

Dr. Gifford provided a copy of the monthly survey report (Attachment # 4) He noted that during the month of May five nursing home surveys took place and that none of these facilities were cited for substandard quality of care.

Dr. Gifford noted that Harris Health Center had received citations regarding immediate jeopardy and substandard quality of care and was continuing to work on its plan of correction. Ms. Hawkins noted that the nursing home had been recruiting a new Director of Nurses and had replaced its administrator as the person who had been the administrator had some health problems. She noted that her staff has been monitoring conditions at Harris Health Center on a continued basis. The facility is pending a third re-visit.

Harborside Greenwood Nursing Home is now in full compliance and pending its third bimonthly monitoring survey.

Haven Health Center in Greenville continues to be out of compliance as of the May 27th survey and a directed plan of correction was ordered. It is pending its third bimonthly monitoring survey.

Other facilities that had previously been found to be out of substantial compliance upon a re-visit were now in full compliance.

Mr. Santos raised the issue about the format for the monthly survey report and that at the last meeting it had been stated that the workgroup which had met to originally provide guidance on the

format for the monthly report would be reconvened to discuss if changes were necessary and that this had not been done. Ms. Maigret noted that it had not been done due to scheduling issues but that she would schedule a reconvening of the workgroup for the purposes of reviewing the format during the summer. Dr. Gifford noted that the Department of Health would be pleased to participate in the discussions of this workgroup.

Mr. Santos also noted that there was no need for some of the facilities that were in the report for May to be on the report and that he objected to their inclusion.

Committee – Project – Commission Reports

Fall Prevention Partnership

Ms. Maigret noted that as the first year the partnership has concluded, one final activity she would like to facilitate would be a Best Practice session on fall prevention for our community-based hospitals.

On May 27th, a very successful "Fall Prevention Through Behavior Change Workshop" was held by the LTCCC in cooperation with CareLink. She noted that Blue Cross had provided partial grant funding to support this workshop. The workshop presentation is available on the Fall Prevention website (fallprevention.ri.gov) in case anyone was not able to attend the workshop and would like to review the presentation.

Ms. Maigret noted that throughout the course of the year, various

provider groups had participated in fall prevention activities, including nursing homes, assisted living and home care. She noted that she was very pleased with the level of activity by partnership members.

LTCCC Budget Report FY2004 – Final Report

Ms. Maigret reviewed the following revisions made to the Long Term Care Budget Report FY2004 (Attachment #5) dated June 2005 from the draft dated April 2005 that had been distributed at the April meeting.

Spending for Adult Day Services Spending was reviewed by both DEA and DHS and confirmed to be accurate,

Changed Adult Day Service Annual Cost of Care to \$9,649 on page 2,
Spending for Hospice Nursing Home Board and Care was identified separately (\$2,362,815) and transferred from Home and Community Care to Institutional Care Category -- this changed amounts spent in these categories to \$42,400,554

For Home and Community Care and \$418,169,912 for Institutional Care,

Percent of funds spent for Home and Community Care changed to 9% from 9.5%,

Percent of funds spent for Institutional Care changed to 89% from 88%,

Corrected Veteran's Home spending to \$20,026,730 on table on page 2,

At request of MHRH, added Total Long Term Care Days at ESH

including Psychiatric Long Term Care days and Daily Census data to table on page 3,

Added Discussion on Provider Trends on page 9 including comments on decrease in ESH bed days and census,

Added RI Population Projections for Persons Age 60+ on page 11, and

Added Table 8 showing Long Term Care Spending for FY1997 to FY2004 on page12.

Ms. Maigret noted that with these changes, the document would be considered to be in its final form. If anyone finds anything further that needs to be addressed, an errata sheet will be prepared. She thanked the members of various departments for their assistance in developing the document.

Announcements and Public Comments

Ms. Maigret announced that the Elder Mental Health Coalition had sent out a notice that they would be holding a meeting on June 23rd at which the community mental health centers and case management agencies would give presentations on the services provided to elders in their communities.

Ms. Maigret asked if there were any further announcements. There being no further announcements, Ms, Maigret noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on October 12th. If there is need to have an emergency meeting in the interim or to convene any workgroup, members would be so notified. She also thanked the LTCCC members for all their advocacy work during the legislative session especially the work on nursing home reform.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.