

**Long Term Care Coordinating Council**

**November 15th, 2007**

**State House Room 313**

**Providence, RI**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

**Lt. Governor Roberts**

**Senator June Gibbs**

**Maria Barros**

**Robert DiCenso**

**Ken Pariseau**

**Elaina Goldstein**

**Bonnie Larson**

**Cindy Soccio**

**Bonnie Sekeres**

**Donna Rodrigues**

**Kathleen Herron**

**Alan Tavares**

**Ray Rusin**

**Don Williams**

**Kathleen Kelly**

**David Dosa**

**Jessica Buhler**

**Susan Saccoccia Olson**

**Roberta Merkle**

**Cynthia Conant-Arp**

**Karen Amado**

**Al Santos**

**Jennifer Wood**

**Daniel Meuse**

**Brian Monteiro**

**Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts at 10:05 a.m.**

**Minutes of the meeting of October 17 are approved unanimously**

**Chairwoman Roberts recognizes Ray Rusin from the Department of Health to report on the surveying activities of the office of facilities regulation. Rusin states that he does not have the completed report but that he will provide a copy to Lt. Governor's staff when one is made available. Mr. Rusin also reports that there weren't any substandard quality of care deficiencies for the month of October; he also reports that Evergreen has been removed from the supervision list and that they have done an excellent job in complying with the standards set forth. That completes report for October**

**Mr. Rusin then discusses the RI Generations symposium that was held on November 14, 2007 and states that over 245 people were in**

attendance, he then thanked the Lt. Governor for shifting the meeting so that turnout would not be affected, he also thanked the Lt. Governor for her remarks at the symposium.

Chairwoman Roberts recognizes Jennifer Wood from the Lt. Governor's office to discuss an initiative to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers. Wood updated the council on the progress of the workgroup, including announcing that a Brown University graduate student is helping do research two days a week. Ms. Wood then states that she will be passing around a sign up sheet for council members interested in helping out. The Lt. Governor's staff will be meeting with Rhode Island Quality Partners to discuss next steps. Dr. Gifford supports the Long Term Care Coordinating Council in this effort.

Chairwoman Roberts recognizes Senator Gibbs to discuss the work of the legislative committee. Senator Gibbs reviewed the legislative worksheet from the committee with information on bills that did not pass in the previous session. Senator Gibbs then reviewed the legislative committee's new business report on policy issues for the upcoming session.

**Discussion by the Council:**

**Home modification grants**

**Elaina Goldstein asked if this money allocated to Office of Rehabilitative Services? Home modification grants are an issue that have been pursued by Rep. Naughton. Dan Meuse stated that the legislative committee did not speak on any specific legislation and that small pots of money are out there, but not able to accessed to best of its ability. Also, loan program has not been used because sometimes the modifications are too low of a dollar figure.**

**Elaina Goldstein then states that the question is about financing and what resources are out there today for a person who wants to access home support and modifications. Rhodes to Independence is currently working on a handbook for home modification. Jessica Buhler stated that the Senior Agenda is also looking into this issue.**

**Chairwoman Roberts asks when the Rhodes to Independence handbook would be finished. Goldstein states that they are doing more than they anticipated; a number of people are reviewing the document for input, and she the hopes workbook will be completed with a review by December 12th, or at least the finance portion.**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that there is a lot of confusion about what is currently out there. She asked Ms. Goldstein to bring the project to the council as soon as possible.**

**Discharge Planners**

**Sen. Gibbs states that the legislative committee discussed education for discharge planners.**

**Kathllen Herron states that the problem is when people meet with discharge planners, they have no clue. As we develop and invest in community based care and better transitions from acute care to home care, if discharge planners are not aware of the choices that are out there, it hinders the process. Hopes that the council will spend more time on development strategies, we get the most bang for our buck by putting a process together so we have people are more informed.**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that a computer based resource list would be helpful.**

**Jessica Buhler states that she is wondering if we can call a meeting with interested parties as a sub group.**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that before we take a statutory approach, we should try a collaborative approach; we need to connect communities that work here with workgroups.**

**Maria Barros states that if discharge planners allowed home care agencies to educate them we would be able to bridge many divides, such as cultural and familial.**

**Maureen Glynn states that she will sponsoring a discharge planner**

**forum in March.**

**Kathleen wants to work out a one page bullet before they meet with hospital associations; it is good to get down in writing in bullet form so we can make meetings more productive.**

### **Nurses in Senior Housing**

**Bonnie Sekeres stated that a senior housing facility cannot have a nurse on staff without being reclassified and subject to licensing by the department of health. In Massachusetts, senior housing facilities can have nurses on staff.**

**Don Williams states that we have to make a decision about what we want to regulate and do not want to regulate.**

**D. Meuse states that if a housing facility contracted with home health care agencies it would be fine**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that she would be very interested in hearing a person from the Massachusetts system to list the pros and cons. Having a meeting that focuses on this issue would be helpful.**

### **Other Topics**

**Sen. Gibbs states that if there is any real interest in any of these, then**

**state your problems so that we may be made aware**

**E. Goldstein states that pre-admission physical therapy assessment to help modify homes would help put people in there homes quicker after surgery.**

**Sen. Gibbs. Thanks Dan Meuse and Jennifer Wood for their help on the subject.**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that she hopes that legislation with her stamp will be ready to go at the beginning of January. She states that her deadline will be during the first week of February 2008 and that the centerpiece of the February meeting should be the budget. Also, that the people around this table have the knowledge to understand budget issues and that she expects to see possible cuts on Medicare side**

**Jennifer Wood states that there may be a need to develop a workshop on the budget separately from the regular LTCCC meeting.**

**Dan Meuse states that a legislative committee meeting would be scheduled in early December, before the regular monthly meeting of LTC**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that the taskforce report was released in August; the taskforce was convened by Governor Carcieri and herself**

**with a 90 day window. The report was released with two recommendations. 1.) Regulation and statute which deals collectively with hospitals. 2.) Reimbursement policies**

**A number of hospitals came to see Governor Carcieri and they would like to be assured that the issues that have risen do not get swept away. The council will be reformed with Commissioner Koller and Director Alexander; the focus will be on reimbursement. The first project is to focus on Medicaid reimbursement.**

**Dan Meuse states that Meetings are open to the public and that the link for these meetings can be found on the OHHS web site.**

**Don Williams states that he and Dr. Gifford had a discussion with staff and they have the intention to put out a document that is descriptive about what regulation is, and then convene a public meeting and take testimony from people. Mr. Williams was asked to float this idea to committee.**

**Jessica Buhler states that Senior Agenda has just released their fact book**

**Chairwoman Roberts presents a Citation to Al Santos for his many years of dedicated service to the Long Term Care Council and senior citizens of our state**

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am**