

# **Long Term Care Coordinating Council**

## **Regular Meeting**

**March 20, 2008**

**10:00 am**

**State House Room 313**

**Providence, RI**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Attendance:**

**Lt. Governor Roberts**

**Senator June Gibbs**

**Deputy Secretary Adelita Orefice**

**Director Gary Alexander**

**Director Corinne Calise Russo**

**Director Ellen Nelson**

**Director Dr. David Gifford**

**Elizabeth Morancy**

**Bonnie Larson**

**Kelly Lee**

**John McGehearty**

**Mark Lescault**

**Gavin Ward**

**Alan Tavares**

**Holly Garvey**

**Ken Pariseau**

**Jeff Taylor**

**Paula Parker**

**Virginia Burke**

**Thomas Whipple**

**Sr. Marietta Walsh**

**Angelo Rotella**

**Elizabeth Earls**

**Susan Sweet**

**Kathleen Heren**

**Ray Rusin**

**Cynthia Conant-Arp**

**Maureen Maigret**

**Richard Freeman**

**John Young**

**Dr. David Dosa**

**Jennifer Wood**

**Dan Meuse**

**Chairwoman Lt. Governor Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:12am.**

**The minutes were approved as amended.**

**The Chair introduced Ray Rusin, Director of Facilities Regulation at the Department of Health to report on the oversight of nursing homes by the Department of Health.**

**The Chair introduced Senator June Gibbs to discuss the activities of the legislative committee. Senator Gibbs described the worksheet from the legislative committee. The council discussed the worksheet and members present voted to accept the recommendations of the committee. John Young and Richard Freeman abstained from voting.**

**The Chair moved to new business. Lt. Gov. Roberts recognized Jessica Buhler for her new role at Rhode Island Housing.**

**Jennifer Wood updated the council on the work of the pressure ulcer reduction collaborative.**

**Maureen Maigret discussed the non-Medicaid program changes proposed at the Department of Elderly Affairs and moved that the council express its opposition to the changes. The Chair asked if the motion would be held until after the presentation from the administration.**

**The Chair recessed the council at 9:57am.**

**The Chair reconvened the Council at 10:10am and introduced Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Adelita Orefice for a discussion on proposed changes to the state's Medicaid system. Deputy Secretary Orefice offered a presentation on the reform proposal. A copy of the presentation has been requested.**

**Council Members had a number of questions and comments based on the presentation.**

**Angelo Rotella asked for clarification on the claim that nursing home care costs up to 10 times more than home and community based care. Director of Elderly Affairs Corinne Russo stated that the number was found based on research completed by the department. Virginia Burke stated that there are patients that are in nursing homes now that, if they were moved to a home setting, would cost far more for care than the current cost of their nursing home care.**

**Elizabeth Earls asked Deputy Secretary Orefice if the Consumer Choices program would function in the same way for Medicaid eligible children as it is described for adults. Orefice stated that it would be a different program with a different structure for children.**

**Virginia Burke asked who would be creating the definitions of the tiers for need for care. Frank Spinelli from the Department of Human Services stated that there are teams within the office of Health and Human Services with different responsibilities for examining and**

making recommendations on certain aspects of the reform plan. He stated that there is a team looking at qualifying for programs and assessment and that team, with members from different departments, is discussing the tiers of need. Kathleen Heren responded by asking what types of qualifications would the people that make the assessment have. Mr. Spinelli stated that nurses and social workers would be making the assessments. Deputy Secretary Orefice stated that she would welcome input from the council on the types of professionals that should be on the assessment team. Ms. Heren responded that a nurse with long term care experience should be included on assessment teams.

Susan Sweet stated that many questions from the council are being asked because the reform proposal signifies a big change and represents significant change in the way long term care will be provided in that state, yet no one seems to know or share the details of how things will change. Deputy Secretary Orefice stated that she understood the concern and that the reason that details of the implementation of the proposal have not been discussed is due to the fact that the details have not been worked out.

Frank Spinelli clarified a point in the presentation in regards to the personal choice program. He stated that the administration is looking to expand the population that is eligible for the personal choice waiver, as well as expanding the universe of products and services that can be purchase through the personal choices waiver.

**Maureen Maigret asked if the reform proposal includes any provision for long-term care to be managed. Deputy Secretary Orefice stated that there was no provision to that effect.**

**Deputy Secretary Orefice described the timeline for submissions to CMS for the global waiver request, with the first deliverable being an initial letter of inquiry to CMS at the end of March. Lt. Gov. Roberts requested that the document be shared with the council when it is available.**

**Deputy Secretary Orefice spoke to perceived differences between the position on the Medicaid reform proposal and certain non-Medicaid budget proposals, including increases in cost sharing for the co-pay programs and the Ride program. She stated that while the non-Medicaid budget decisions may seem to have an effect that is in opposition to the purpose of the waiver proposal, the changes are necessary in order to meet state budget requirements. Orefice also stated that the proposal will result in system changes, meaning that some constituencies will see a loss of funding while others may see an increase in funds.**

**Angelo Rotella asked how the administration will be able to claim to CMS that there was stakeholder involvement in the waiver process when the concept letter will be finished within 2 weeks and many stakeholder groups have not had a chance to talk with the**

administration and the groups will not know what the proposal is until it is finished. John Young from the Department of Human Services stated that the initial concept paper will not be detailed, but rather will focus on CMS specific language in preparation for the waiver application. Deputy Secretary Orefice stated that she and the staff of OHHS take the responsibility of obtaining public input very seriously and that an effort to including stakeholders in the discussion, including by attending meetings like the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, are being made.

Susan Sweet stated that the reason that so many people are asking about stakeholder input is due to the fact that people would like to see the details of the planned reform and it seems that there are no details to be shared. She stated that it is likely that stakeholders will embrace the plan if the administration is more forthcoming with details.

Elizabeth Morancy stated that an important part of the reform system, and one that was not mentioned by Deputy Secretary Orefice, is public education about the changes, about what options might be available and about how to access the system of services. Director Gary Alexander stated that the reform team is considering education initiatives.

Virginia Burke asked Deputy Secretary Orefice if the administration has examined or thought about the effect the waiver proposal would

have on nursing homes, and the lasting effects if a need for increased nursing home capacity arose in the future. Orefice stated that the administration is looking into that issue.

Lt. Gov. Roberts asked if the funding mechanism for nursing homes will change. John Young stated that the administration has a dual role of finding savings and monitoring and protecting the financial health of nursing homes. He stated that while the principles of reimbursement may need updating, a full-scale change will not happen during the waiver process.

Dr. David Dosa stated that many physicians that are already struggling with higher costs and low reimbursements from Medicaid will not be able to complete assessments with their current resources. Mr. Spinelli stated that the assessment unit would be housed in the Department of Human Services and that physicians would not have to undertake the cost of assessment.

Lt. Governor Roberts thanked Deputy Secretary Orefice for providing the information to the council. Orefice encouraged the stakeholders to voice their opinions and contact the departments as there will be no open public hearings. Lt. Gov. Roberts expressed concern that the manner in which the administration is soliciting comments compartmentalizes the discussions and may not lead to satisfactory public input.

**The Chair asked for public comment. Public comment was received from one person who asked if the administration was considering capacity and workforce issues when considering the major changes in the system. Deputy Secretary Orefice stated that while OHHS does not have any capacity to affect workforce issues, it is something that the administration understands is a major component of a successful reform plan. Elizabeth Earls stated that workforce issues are a part of the details and that providers need the details of the proposals so they can make business decisions for the future.**

**Maureen Maigret asked the council to consider her motion about the non-Medicaid cuts that will end up having an effect on the system as a whole. The chair asked if she would hold the motion to the next meeting for an in-depth discussion of the non-Medicaid proposals.**

**The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm**