

# **Long Term Care Coordinating Council**

## **Regular Meeting**

**May 14, 2008**

**10:00 am**

**State House Room 313**

**Providence, RI**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Attendance:**

**Lt. Governor Roberts**

**Senator June Gibbs**

**Director Corinne Calise Russo**

**Director David Gifford**

**Mary Benway**

**Kathleen Heren**

**Jill Anderson**

**Bonnie Sekeres**

**Bonnie Larson**

**Jay Burdick**

**Donna Rodrigues**

**Maria Laferriere**

**Joan Kwaitkowski**

**Karen Amado**

**Cynthia Conant-Arp**

**Elaina Goldstein**

**Paola Fonseca**

**Roberta Merkle**

**Kathleen Kelly**

**Alan Tavares**

**Gavin Ward**

**Virginia Burke**

**Laura Adams**

**Jennifer Wood**

**Dan Meuse**

**The chair called the meeting to order at 10:01am**

**The chair introduced Laura Adams, President / CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute to discuss Health Information Technology. Ms. Adams discussed the history of the Quality Institute and how the Quality Institute came to focus on health information technology. She discussed the need for better information sharing between care settings to ensure patient safety. One example of information sharing is on the e-prescribing initiative to ease prescribing to the pharmacy of a patient's choice.**

**The next step in health information technology, and the step that has the potential for the greatest effect on the long-term care field is the**

health information exchange. Ms. Adams explained the process for the development of the exchange and the legislation that would enable the exchange. The first phase of the exchange will include only lab results and pharmacy information.

The council discussed with Ms. Adams the enrollment procedures, which includes how to reach different populations to discuss enrollment processes and privacy matters. The council asked about the decision process for enrollment for persons with a impaired mental status. The council also asked about the scope of the information that would be included in the exchange. Ms. Adams discussed that the information would be point-to point on the patient side and will focus on clinical data. The council discussed the availability of non-clinical information to health insurers. The council also discussed the types of providers that would be able to submit and access information.

The chair asked Ms. Adams about the timeline of the health information exchange. The start of project is enrollment, which would likely start this summer. The very beginning of the project will be simply a way to view information. The council discussed the use of the continuity of care form in light of the health information exchange. Dr. Gifford stated that the use of continuity of care form will likely continue for at least 5 years, but the goal would to have the health information exchange replace the continuity of care form.

**The chair stated that Ray Rusin from the Department of Health would be unable to make the meeting, but introduced Dr. David Gifford, Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Gifford stated that though he was not up to date on the nursing home surveying, he wanted to update the council on the status of the former Hillside facility, which is under new ownership. The department has approved a change in effective control to Radius but the facility is not yet licensed. After licensure, the facility can become Medicaid and Medicare certified after a certain time of providing care.**

**The council discussed the planning aspects of licensing a new nursing home when the state is proposing to use fewer nursing home beds. Dr. Gifford stated that need is not a factor that he can use in determining licensure. However, need can be a factor in certification for Medicare and Medicaid. The council also discussed the Haven Health facilities which are in receivership. Dr. Gifford stated that the receivership proceedings are in the Connecticut courts, so the processes that would occur in a Rhode Island receivership case are not happening. Dr. Gifford stated that one of the Haven facilities in Rhode Island has a large sum of money in escrow that he would like to protect for Rhode Island patients.**

**The chair introduced Dan Meuse of the Lt. Gov's Office to update the council on legislative proceedings. Mr. Meuse discussed a number of pieces of legislation that seem to be moving in the legislature, as well as a piece of legislation that was not previously discussed by the**

**legislative committee. The legislation refers to the destruction of criminal records in a manner that would remove the requirement to disclose a previous conviction from licensing applications. The council discussed the repercussions of the legislation, including loss of reciprocal licensing compact. Suggestions were made to oppose the bill as it is currently written, but offer carveouts of language surrounding licensure, perhaps in the licensure statues themselves.**

**The chair introduced Jennifer Wood to discuss the work of the Pressure Ulcer Cross-Setting Collaborative Design Group. Ms. Wood discussed the work of the design group that has been working closely with Quality Partners on the design of a collaborative that Quality Partners will be funded to undertake.**

**Ms. Wood continued to the next item on the agenda and discussed the proposed global waiver. She stated that the LG's office has been closely following the waiver proposal and will continue to do so. She offered that a number of documents are available to council members and participants.**

**The chair opened the floor to discussions about the waiver proposal. The council discussed the work of the team within DHS that is developing the level of care criteria.**

**The council also discussed the fact that the process of developing the waiver request has brought attention to programs that the**

**administration is not currently implementing as designed. There were also concerns raised that nothing in the global waiver request looks at those programs that are not functioning correctly with ways to fix the programs.**

**The council raised concerns about the proposal to separate the eligibility criteria for the Co-Pay program from the criteria for RIPAE eligibility. The administration stated that the purpose was to separate the eligibility for a federal program from the eligibility for a state program.**

**The council expressed further concerns, including the lack of experienced staff to implement such a large change, the apparent disconnect between the legislative intent of the Long Term Care Finance and Reform Act and the administration's proposal, the potential of harm to the nursing home industry, the assumption that large numbers of people will want to leave nursing homes, and the fact that so much of the inequity between institutional care and home and community based services stems from discharge planning.**

**The council discussed the role of assisted living facilities moving forward, as they are an intermediate step between home care and institutional care.**

**The council approved the minutes of April 9, 2008. The chair announced that the next meeting will be on June 11, 2008.**

**The council asked if the letter to the Department of Elderly Affairs was sent. The chair stated that the letter was sent and when a response is received, the response will be shared with the council.**

**The chair recognized Director of Elderly Affairs Corinne Calise Russo for new business. Director Russo stated that The Point, Rhode Island's elder information service has been chosen by the Administration on Aging to be highlighted for exemplary service.**

**The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:40am.**