



## Long Term Care Coordinating Council

Regular Meeting  
February 11, 2009  
10:00 am  
State House Room 313  
Providence, RI

### *Draft Minutes*

---

Chairwoman Lt. Governor Roberts	Alan Tavares
Ray Rusin	Liz Morancy
Roberta Merkle	William Keough
Rick Baccus	Lorna Ricci
Kathleen Carland	Bonnie Sekeres
Hugh Hall	Susan Sweet
Kathleen Heren	Maria Barros
Ellen Mauro	David Dosa
Elaina Goldstein	Lillian Magee Lloyd
Ken Pariseau	Bonnie Larson
Holly Garvey	Cynthia Conant-Arp
Jim Nyberg	Mary Forgue
Karen Amado	

Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:10am

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

The chair recognized Ray Rusin from the Department of Health to report surveying results of the office of facilities regulation. Mr. Rusin stated that in January there were 9 surveys with one citation for sub-standard quality of care. Mr. Rusin also discussed the issue of the criteria used for sub-standard quality of care. Currently, the state uses the federal standards and there is a question as to whether the federal standards are the right ones to use, especially as resources that are available for surveying have been limited. Mr. Rusin suggested that the council discuss the issue of these criteria

Mr. Rusin also discussed Rhode Island Generations, a group that is focusing on resident-centered, individual based care. RI Generations hosts an annual symposium in November and is currently seeking board members.

The chair recognized Kathleen Heren from the Alliance for Better Long Term Care to continue the discussion about the Nursing Home Transition project. Ms. Heren discussed Nursing Home Transitions Project, an 18-month pilot project that will focus on the efficacy and success of transitioning people out of nursing homes and into home and community based placements. The project will focus on working with social workers and case managers and families to identify persons that are currently in nursing homes and creating a care plan to move them out of nursing homes and back into the community. Ms. Heren made it clear that the project would never take a person out of a nursing home against their wishes.

The council discussed issues around a transition out of the nursing home and a care plan fails. Ms. Heren stated that if a person has the need to re-enter a nursing home, the project will be the persons' advocate for re-entry. The council also discussed the issues surrounding housing for persons transitioning out, especially for persons who had left senior housing, since waiting lists will not allow a person to re-enter senior housing.

The council also discussed issues surrounding case management for the transition project patients and complications with physician issues, since when a person transitions into a nursing home, their care is often transferred to the facility's physician. The council discussed the potential conflict between the ombudsman role and the project. Ms. Heren stated that there would be a process developed for fair hearings should any complaints arise in the program. Finally, the council discussed the role of the program for cases that would be more expensive outside of the home.

The chair recognized Dan Meuse from the Office of Lt. Governor to discuss items in the supplemental budget relating to long-term care. Mr. Meuse began the discussion with the proposed increase to the Adult Day co-pay rates. The original governor's recommended revised budget included an increase to \$18 per day. In subsequent House Finance hearings, the department stated that they would support an increase to \$15 per day. The council discussed the proposal. A motion was made for a letter to be sent on behalf of the council opposing the cut. The motion was tabled pending a completion of the report on the recommended budget.

Mr. Meuse continued the discussion of DEA regarding the Ride program and proposed changes. The council discussed the issue, including the possibility that the proposed cuts in service have been eliminated since Ride service is now a matchable service under the global waiver. The chair asked members of provider groups that would be affected by proposed cuts to estimate the number of persons that they think would drop coverage due to the changes.

The council discussed the role of the new matching funds available from the federal government and using these costs to offset the patient cost as well as the state share. The council also discussed the wisdom of the budget proposal that seem to undermine the purpose and goals of the global waiver.

Mr. Meuse discussed the proposed changes at the department of human services. The three proposals affecting long term care at DHS focused on nursing homes. The first proposal was to delay the annual price adjustment from April 1, 2009 to July 1, 2009. The second proposal was to lower the per-diem rate by 5%. The third proposal would reduce the labor reimbursement ceiling from 112% to 110%.

The council discussed its focus on all facets of the LTC continuum. In the past, there was an effort to increase funding to nursing homes to allow for better staffing. Now, the budget process has eliminated money from the nursing homes and the only place that services are cut when money is removed is in staffing. These changes do not fit with the standards that the state set for its nursing care and it does not allow nursing homes to plan for the future.

The council discussed the previously tabled motion of commenting on the proposed cuts. The council discussed that the letter should include discussion of the idea that cuts that ultimately weaken home and community based care make little sense and that a unified vision for long term care should be maintained in budgeting. Additionally, despite the fact that the state is looking to transition or divert persons away from nursing homes, changing the payment structure in a way that reduces staffing moves the state backward. The motion to comment on the proposals passed on a voice vote.

The chair again recognized Mr. Meuse to discuss legislation. Mr. Meuse stated that the two bills discussed at the previous meeting had been introduced. There was a comment that the bill to increase the membership of the council should include persons with any type of disability.

The chair recognized Bonnie Sekeres to discuss the Discharge Planning Workgroup. Ms. Sekeres stated that the group was finishing its work and would be presenting its report at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.