

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920
Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 26, 2013**

Attendance:

Rebecca Martish / Chair; Carelink, Charles Dress; AARP, John O'Hara; AARP, Verteal Patterson; AARP, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone Adult Day Services, Chris Murphy; West Bay Community Action, Joe Lindbeck; RI Attorney General's Office, Diane Gallagher; Alliance for BLTC, Cristina Amedeo; United Way of RI The Point 211, Mary Ladd; DEA, Nicholas Oliver; RI Partnership for Home Care

The meeting began at 9:04 AM. Introductions followed.

The February 26, 2013 Minutes were reviewed. No changes, corrections or additions were noted. Minutes accepted.

**Update on National Criminal Background Checks Legislation
Joe Lindbeck / Legislative Liaison / Attorney General's Office**

This Federal Grant was awarded to RI (one of nine pilot states) in 2010 as the result of a joint application between the RI Attorney General's Office and RI DHS. The grant period ended in September 2012 however a one year extension was awarded. This grant money is the systems foundation of the implementation of national criminal background checks (FBI fingerprints) on all long term health care workers. This legislation is scheduled for a House Finance hearing in May 2013 with the goal being a July 1, 2013 implementation. National Criminal Background checks may be a federal law requirement by 2015 however if RI passes this legislation now, they may be exempt from certain mandates of the federal law requirement.

Legislation Update

Review of "The Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island 2013 Legislation of Interest to Seniors." This information was presented in written form and was handed out to all Advisory Board members. Information on the National Criminal Background Checks for Caregivers is further explained in the narrative portion of the handout. Additionally, there is information on six other pieces of legislation.

**DEA and Sequestration update
DEA Director Catherine Taylor**

Due to sequestration, DEA may expect cuts to programs administered under the Older Americans Act. DEA has not received anything formally in writing from the Administration on Aging as to these cuts however it is believed that there may be an average of 4.7% cuts to certain programs. Those programs that may be affected are Senior Companion, SHIP, Nutrition, Supportive Services, Ombudsman and Protective Services. The DEA Finance Office and State Budget Office are currently looking at

these programs and working on possible outcomes. Director Taylor will keep the Committee informed as to any new information on the sequestration.

Director Taylor also updated the Committee on the 1115 Medicaid Waiver (Global Waiver) expansion. The 1115 Medicaid Waiver expansion will not include DEA clients. Regarding non-Medicaid programs however, DEA has requested raising the income level for the CNOM / Co-Pay Program to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (presently it is capped at 200%) and has also requested to include individuals under the age of 65 who have a Dx of Alzheimer's. Overall, it is not expected that there will be any decrease in the CNOM or RIDE Programs.

Review of draft memo to Director Taylor of phone conference with like organizations and committees

Draft memo was completed by Chair Rebecca Martish and shared with the Committee for final approval. This memo will be the final version and will be sent to Director Taylor from Chair Rebecca Martish on behalf of the Advisory Board Committee.

Comments/Questions

Comment: Increasing reimbursements for HCBS Providers.

Comment: Integrated Care Initiative currently is in the procurement process.

Chair Rebecca Martish asked members to consider themselves for the co-chair position or nominating other members for this position. The Committee is in need of a co-chair as a back up to the Chair position and also as a back up to recording the minutes, etc.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 @ 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ladd
DEA / H&CC Coordinator