

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920
Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 23, 2013**

Attendance:

Rebecca Martish / Chair; Carelink, Charles Dress; AARP, John O'Hara; AARP, Catherine Graziano, AARP, Verteal Patterson; AARP, Paula Parker; DEA, Chris Murphy, West Bay Community Action, Diane Gallagher, alliance for BLTC, Carol Rosal, Diocese/CareBreaks, Mary Ladd; DEA, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone Adult Day Services, Drew Powers; DOH, Rhonda Schwartz; DEA.

The meeting began at 9:05 AM. Introductions followed.

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

DEA Home and Community Based Services Report: Paula Parker, DEA

Paula Parker of DEA provided a brief overview of the SFY 2013 3rd Quarter Home and Community Care Utilization report. The information provided was compared to SFY 2012 3rd Quarter Home and Community Care Utilization report. DEA should be within the budget target for the CNOM expenses. However, DEA will be over budget in the Assisted Living Waiver Expenses, but will be receiving support to cover the program. Handout provided.

Drew Powers from the Department of Health noted that there are several new adult day health centers and one new assisted living. St. Germain Manor is a new assisted living with 50 apartments. Elmwood Adult Day Health Center opened a second location on Miner St. in Providence with a 300 participant capacity. A new adult day center opened in East Providence, Sacred Heart day Care Center, which is starting with 24 participants. There is also a new adult Day Center in Johnston called Svelto.

DEA Program Updates: Rhonda Schwartz, DEA

DEA Falls Prevention Program

DEA does not have a formal falls prevention program, but has partnered with others including the RI Department of Health ("DOH") and their injury prevention program. Rhonda currently Chair's the Department of Health's Falls Prevention Subcommittee. One example of a falls prevention program being implemented in RI is the *Matter of Balance* program, which helps in managing concerns about falls and is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. It is a 6-8 week course which meets 2 hours each week. DOH was able to introduce this program in RI, and several leaders have been trained who in turn can train additional individuals. The program is very popular, and depending on the location, there can be

a waiting list for it. Coastal Medical recently received a small grant from DOH to implement a falls risk prevention tool. The hope is that the use of a falls prevention assessment tool by physicians will become more common practice. In addition, the DOH Falls Prevention Subcommittee is looking at ways to promote education and awareness of falls prevention programs and to promote outreach to the medical community.

Expansion of Options Counseling Through MFP/ADRC Grant

EOHHS was able to get supplemental funding under the MFP program which is intended to help the ADRC enhance its Options Counseling capacity. Options Counseling is a process whereby individuals are supported in their deliberations to make informed long-term support choices in the context of their own preferences and values. Options Counseling is available for people with all different levels of income through the ADRC. Through this supplemental MFP funding, DEA is looking to develop standards and protocols to make Options Counseling consistent from one ADRC location to the next, thus helping with a no wrong door entry. Currently, ADRC partner agencies have not all received the same options counseling training. An individual will be hired to help develop the training; they will also be going into nursing homes to conduct Options Counseling as part of the MFP and Nursing Home Transitions programs.

Co-Chair Position Vote

Rebecca had requested nominees for the Co-Chair position after the last meeting in March. One nominee stepped forward, John O'Hara. Before voting Rebecca asked if there are any additional volunteers. The group unanimously voted to appoint John O'Hara to the Co-Chair position.

Comments/Questions

The Forum on Aging has been attempting to hold an event for caregivers, where they can receive information on resources. Caregivers can bring the individual for whom they care for and there will be someone available to watch these individuals while the caregiver attends the event. The event has been cancelled and re-scheduled several times because of the lack of registrants. The Forum on Aging is looking into marketing efforts to see if the event should be re-scheduled again.

Catherine Graziano shared that Sheldon Whitehouse will be holding a meeting on end of life care issues for Rhode Islanders. It was suggested that he look at the work of the End of Life Task Force and the use of the MOLST.

Lastly, Rebecca had contacted Director Taylor about the Sequestration and updates as to where DEA may experience cuts to its programs. As of today DEA has received no further updates, other than what was shared at the last meeting in March.

Meeting ended at 9:50am

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 28th 2013 @ 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Martish
Chair, Home and Community Care Advisory Committee