

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920
Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 28, 2013**

Attendance:

Rebecca Martish / Chair, Carelink; Mary Ladd, DEA; Catherine Graziano, AARP; Nicholas Oliver, RIPHC; Chris Murphy, West Bay Community Action; Diane Gallagher, Alliance for BLTC; Kim Timpson, DEA; Kathy McKeon, Diocese of Providence; Dottie Santagata, Cornerstone Adult Day Services; Catherine Taylor; DEA.

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

The April 23, 2013 Minutes were reviewed. No changes, corrections or additions were noted. Minutes accepted.

Update on Sequestration: Director Catherine Taylor, DEA

Director Taylor gave an update on the effect of sequestration on the DEA programs. A letter was distributed by Director Taylor on May 13th to notify grantees of the spending cuts, although the Division of Elderly Affairs had not received final notification from the Administration on Aging (AOA) of what to expect in the amount of cuts. DEA had received half of what was expected from the AOA in October and then nothing in April. On May 1st DEA received two months' worth of payments. DEA was exploring whether other funds within the State could be re-programmed to cover any of the cuts. The award amount for the rest of the year was just received last Friday. For those grantees who have submitted payment requests for the 4/1/2013 to 6/30/2013 quarter, DEA planned to adjust the amounts of those requests to include a reduction for the month of June.

It is anticipated that reductions of the DEA 2013 grants will remain in place for all new grant awards for the annual grant period commencing July 1, 2013. Some grantees' cuts will be small, while respite and nutrition cuts are expected to be larger because the grants are larger. The SHIP program cuts will not be felt because the annual conference was cancelled and the money which would have been used to send staff is being used to cover the cuts. The Senior Companion program is expected to receive a 4% cut. Director Taylor will know more in a few days and will pass information along to the Committee.

Director Taylor also provided an update on the Ombudsman Regulations. They are working on a final draft and the Alliance has been hard at work to ensure it is in compliance with the regulations once they are official. The Federal Government is also working on Ombudsman Regulations, which might be out by the end of the year.

The budget revisions will be heard soon. In the budget released in January 2013, CNOMs were rolled into the Medicaid expansion, including the DEA CNOMs. There was a recognized savings

with this move. However, the DEA CNOMs are not eligible for Medicaid expansion. In the revisions an explanation will be provided indicating that the DEA CNOMs are not eligible for Medicaid expansion and that funds will be transferred from EOHHS to DEA to cover the proposed savings.

It was also mentioned that EOHHS is working to find a Transportation Broker.

Legislative Update

The Home and Community Care Advisory Committee reviewed and discussed legislation of interest and gave updates. It was noted that RI recently released revenue numbers for FY2014 and the amount is \$50 million less than anticipated. Passing pieces of legislation will be more difficult.

The National Background Check legislation was heard in House Finance Committee. The bill is being held for further study. The Attorney General's office is collecting data from the Rhode Island Department of Health on hiring and turnover rates. The information will help the Attorney General's office in knowing how many workers will need to have a National Background Check performed.

Other pieces of legislation discussed include:

Temporary Voluntary Caregiver Insurance: the purpose of this piece of legislation is to establish a temporary caregiver program, under the state's temporary disability insurance program, that would provide up to 8 weeks of TDI to workers who need to take time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, domestic partner, or bond with a new child.

Family Caregiver Support Act: the House passed the Sub-A and referred the legislation to the Senate Health and Human Services. The legislation would mandate that as part of the Medicaid long-term care assessment that the caregiver shall have his/her needs assessed in addition to the care recipient.

It was mentioned that the legislation worked on by Bill Flynn and the Senior Agenda to restore the community service grants is currently being held for further study. It was also mentioned that given the sequestration and the cuts to DEA programs that it will be more difficult to get this legislation passed.

An update was given on the Palliative Care legislation. The American Cancer Society is supporting this piece of legislation along with other organizations. Supporters want to mandate Palliative Care referrals for those with chronic pain. The House passed the legislation and reduced the penalties to providers not using the continuity of care form. The legislation also calls for the establishment of an advisory council, which would include a representative from the American Cancer Society. The legislation is in the Senate and it was noted that the Senate version is different from the House version in the establishment of the advisory council.

An update was provided on the MOLST (Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) legislation which was passed last legislative session. A workgroup finished writing the rules and regulations in early April and passed the information along to the RI Department of Health. There will be a meeting in June and the group is hoping to have a hearing in the early Fall on the proposed rules and regulations. The group is looking to create a one page form front and back with a 6th grade literacy level.

Kim Timpson from DEA gave a quick update on the expansion of the options counseling program through a partnership with Money Follows the Person. Kim Timpson has a new role working with the Money Follows the Person staff. She and the staff will be working to develop an options counseling training program to ensure continuity between the different ADRCs in Rhode Island.

It was mentioned that an RFP had been released from the Division of Elderly Affairs. In the RFP DEA is looking to integrate the SHIP, SMP, and Regional ADRC services. The proposals are currently in the review stage, but it will be interesting to see once awarded what the structure will be. It was suggested that after awarded the Committee have an individual from DEA come to explain the new set-up.

Comments/Questions

Catherine Graziano mentioned that the Senior Agenda is holding a workshop on creating your own personal electronic medical record. The event is free, and is being held on June 8th. Rebecca will forward the announcement to the Committee.

Meeting ended at 9:42am

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25th 2013 @ 9:00 AM.

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