

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920
Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 24, 2013**

Attendance:

Rebecca Martish / Chair, Carelink; Mary Ladd, DEA; Catherine Graziano, AARP; Diane Gallagher, Alliance for BLTC; Dottie Santagata, Cornerstone Adult Day Services; Kathleen Zaroogian, DEA; Catherine Taylor, DEA; Michelle Szylin, EOHHS; John O'Hara, AARP; Verteal Patterson, AARP; Charles Dress, AARP; Rick Gamache, CharterCare; Ken Pariseau, NHPRI; Linda A'Vant-Deishinni, Diocese of Providence; Carol Rosol, Diocese of Providence; Julia Gold, RIDOH; Kathy Shatraw, CharterCare.

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

The June 25, 2013 Minutes were reviewed. No changes, corrections or additions were noted. Minutes accepted.

Update from Director Catherine Taylor – RE: Effect of Integrated Care Initiative on Case Management Agencies

Director Taylor explained the current transition process taking place between Tri-Town Community Action and Child and Family Services. The transfer will take effect beginning October 15, 2013. Child and Family Services will take over all case management services in the Providence area. Tri-town will still serve as case management services in Southern and Northern RI. Formal notice will be going out to the providers.

Integrated Care Initiative Update

The Integrated Care Initiative is well underway. EOHHS staff continues to meet regularly with both Neighborhood Health Plan of RI (NHPRI) and CareLink to ensure a smooth rollout of the two new programs.

The first batch of enrollment letters was mailed to 5200 individuals on Sept 6, 2013.

Individuals will also receive a reminder postcard in the mail the first week of October. This group will be enrolled in either NHPRI or Connect Care Choice Community Partners (CCCCP)/CareLink on November 1, 2013. A second batch of enrollment letters will be mailed to 3400 individuals on Oct 1, 2013.

The Integrated Care team is scheduled to meet with advocacy groups to keep them updated on the initiative in October. It is unclear how this will directly impact DEA staff and case management agencies; however, DEA will continue to provide updates on the initiative as more information becomes available.

Update on The State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders

Next meeting is scheduled with Lt. Governor at Child and Family Service on October 30, 2013 at 10:00am.

Presentation:

Elder Friendly Emergency Rooms at Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals

by Rick Gamache, Administrator of Elmhurst Extended Care

Rick Gamache gave a thorough explanation of the new Elder Friendly Emergency Rooms at Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals. Some of the items he discussed were as follows:

The hospitals launched their senior-focused emergency departments on March 25. Both emergency departments have undergone physical renovations and modifications, while providing enhanced training and assessment tools for staff. Nurses in the emergency room have completed Geriatric Emergency Nursing Education through the Emergency Nurses Association. Other members of the team – including physicians, pharmacists, social workers, case managers and CNAs – have all received geriatric-specific training to enhance the care that seniors receive.

Beyond the enhanced training, there have been a number of physical and environmental modifications designed to make an elders visit more pleasant. Those include:

- Designated treatment areas for seniors;
- Non-skid/non-glare floors for easier walking;
- Extra thick, pressure-reducing mattresses to enhance comfort and combat the risk of pressure ulcers; Portable amplification devices for hearing assistance;
- Sound absorbing ceiling tiles;
- Large print forms and magnifying devices to assist with reading;
- Non-glare lighting;
- Soothing environmental features like soft music, aromatherapy, and television screens with serene images;

Overview of Climate Change and Health Project by Julia Gold, Project Manager Dept. of Health

The Rhode Island Climate and Health Project is part of a national effort to anticipate and prepare for human health effects related to global and local climate change. The project is supported by the Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Climate and Health program.

The Rhode Island Department of Health has launched a project to examine the health consequences of climate change. Focused on developing public health adaptation strategies, the Health and Climate Change Project will involve active participation by stakeholders and address the needs of vulnerable populations and bring experts and resources together to better understand potential climate changes in Rhode Island, predict and monitor health effects, identify the populations most vulnerable to these effects, and develop programs to protect the public's health.

A series of workshops will be part of the project. The next workshop will take place on October 8, 2013 and is entitled "**Exploring Climate Change Impacts on Health: Heat and People 65+**".

For details on future workshops, please contact:

Julia Gold, Climate Change Program Manager,

RI Department of Health,

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Meeting ended at 10:10am

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 22 2013 @ 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Zaroogian, DEA