

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs  
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920  
Garden Conference Room  
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Attendance:**

Rebecca Martish / Chair, CareLink; John O'Hara, AARP; Charles Dress, AARP; Catherine Graziano, AARP; Verteal Patterson, AARP; Cristina Amedeo, United Way of RI; Ken Pariseau, NHPRI; Dottie Santagata, Cornerstone Adult Day Services; Andrew Powers, RI DOH; Diane Gallagher, Alliance for BLTC; Kelly Lee, PACE/ Adult Day Center of Westerly; Nicholas Oliver; RIPHC; Kathy McKeon, Diocese of Providence

The meeting began at 9:00 AM. Introductions followed.

The February 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes were reviewed. No changes, corrections or additions were noted. Minutes accepted.

**Legislation Update:**

A handout was provided with a list of relevant legislation to the Home and Community Care Advisory Committee. Several pieces of legislation were reviewed in more detail, including:

- H 7732 and S 2583 focus on adult day and home care and is asking for a 10% rate increase. The legislation also calls for an acuity-based enhancement for adult day.
- H 7368 and S 2526 would impose a moratorium on new home healthcare agency licenses. The legislation also requests changes to the Health Services Council, and requests a review of health services addressing capacity and geographic location. There are several alternatives to the S 2526 bill, which include:
  - S 2560, which creates a moratorium on home healthcare agencies and would establish a home healthcare system planning taskforce to review the current system.
  - S 2559, which seeks to increase enforcement for unlicensed home care agencies in RI, the legislation establishes timeframes for the Department of Health to investigate suspected unlicensed home health agencies.
- H 7413 would establish a national background checks for all long term care workers. This is the fourth year that the legislation has been introduced.

We will have a legislation update at each upcoming meeting before the General Assembly goes on break effective July 1, 2014.

**Update on the CareBreaks Program and Lifespan Respite: Kathy McKeon, Diocese of Providence**

Kathy McKeon provided an update on several respite programs. The Lifespan program, which is unaffiliated with Lifespan hospital system, receives funding from the Administration on Aging and also from the State of RI. Families can have a choice of having the care recipient attend an adult day, or even a week stay in a nursing facility. The cost share for the service is based on the care recipients income, not that of the caregiver. The Lifespan Respite program grant was awarded to Rhode Island in 2009. The purpose of the grant was to implement a model of respite services across the lifespan and create the infrastructure across existing respite systems to enable greater awareness and access.

Because of sequestration the respite programs received some cuts. The respite programs went into the year with less money than the previous 6 months. There has been a wait list for over 6 months, however the Diocese has been able to clear the list and add more people onto respite services. There were 92 people on the list, with 40 of those who were on the list passing away. The Diocese of Providence is taking new applications for respite recipients, so we encourage individuals to complete the application.

Through Money Follows the Person grant, the program will be able to create a caregiver resource of respite services. There is a draft tool that is being developed. The tool will be available through 211 and the Point. A draft can be shared with those interested and any comments would be appreciated.

The Alliance for Caregivers along with the Parent Support Network is working on creating a position paper about supporting caregivers in the long term care world. They will be looking at what contributions the caregivers make and how they can be supported.

Meeting ended at 10:45am

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am**