

Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road; Cranston, RI 02920, Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee Minutes
October 28, 2014

Attendance:

Nicholas Oliver, Chair; RIPHC; Paula Parker, DEA; Mary Ladd, DEA; Kathleen Zaroogian, DEA; John O'Hara, AARP; Dottie Santagata, Cornerstone/SEC; Charles Dress, AARP; Diane Gallagher, Alliance for BLTC; Linda A'Vant-Deishinni, Diocese of Providence; Katie Enright, Attorney General; Verteal Patterson, AARP; Amanda Clarke, UWRI.

The meeting began at 9:01 AM. Introductions followed.

The September 23, 2014 minutes were reviewed. No changes, corrections or additions were noted. Minutes accepted.

DEA Update, Paula Parker, Assistant Director-Division of Elderly Affairs

➤ **Home & Community Care Program Utilization Reports Review**

Paula provided the committee with the Home & Community Care Utilization Reports for SFY 2014 and 2015. The utilization reports did not include data from Rhody Health Options. Paula provided a separate spreadsheet specifically listing data from Rhody Health Options.

After reviewing the data listed on the Rhody Health Options spreadsheet, there appears to be incorrect data listed. Paula will contact Neighborhood Health Plan to resolve the errors.

A suggestion was made to invite a representative from Neighborhood Health Plan to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

➤ **Home & Community Care Regulations Update**

The second phase of the regulation process has begun. DEA received some helpful feedback from individuals who attended the hearing. Paula is hoping to have the second phase of the process complete by the end of November.

➤ **DEA Budget Update**

Paula was unable to provide the committee with any information on proposed budget cut items for DEA at this time. She may be able to provide further information at the next meeting.

➤ **Communication concerns with the Office of Health and Human Services**

Several members of the committee expressed frustration and concern over the lack of communication from the EOHHS office and Medicaid Director. They report they are not able to obtain critical information and receive answers to questions. Transportation continues to be a significant concern. A suggestion was made to invite a representative from this office to the next HCCAC meeting to address some of these concerns and issues.

➤ **State Plan on Aging**

Paula reports that the current state plan is in effect until September 2015. DEA is awaiting the new federal guidelines to be issued before they can begin to develop the next plan.

Home & Community Care Advisory Committee Vacancies and Appointments

A list of current members was provided to the Committee. A number of vacancies exist. Nicholas will reach out to various agencies and organizations to recruit interested individuals. Mary Ladd will reach out to the case management agencies. The first seven individuals on the list have to be approved by the General Assembly. Nicolas will reach out to individuals who have not been attending to determine if they plan to attend future meetings on a regular basis.

The committee was asked to think of potential new members that could serve on the committee and forward the names to Mary Ladd.

2015-2019 Goal Setting for Advisory Committee

Once the new Governor has been appointed in January, the committee will focus on future goals for the advisory committee to work on. Several members of the committee expressed concern over the following items and would like the committee to set them as goals. The items are as follows:

Reimbursement rates for Home & Community Care Services.

Patient Access Issues; Adult Day services closing; service gaps.

Carebreaks-Respite Care Issues-Large waiting lists; need to expand access.

LogistiCare-continued issues with transportation.

Criminal Background checks for Direct Care workers-issues with access locations to complete finger printing requirement and costs of background check. It was suggested that a representative from the Attorney Generals' office be invited to a future meeting to address these issues.

Public Comments and Announcements

There will be a Kick Off event at the State House on Monday, November 3, 2014 to celebrate National Family Caregiver Awareness Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:00am at The Division of Elderly Affairs, Garden Level Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Zaroogian,
Administrative Officer-DEA, Director's Office