

Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
74 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920, Garden Conference Room
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee Minutes
November 25, 2014

Attendance:

Nicholas Oliver, Chair; RIPHC; Paula Parker, 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, Catherine Graziano; AARP, George Sousa; Logisticare, Mary Lou Rhodes; VNS Home Health Services, Lorna Ricci; OSCIL, Jim Nyberg; Leading Age RI.

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

The October 28, 2014 minutes were reviewed. One spelling correction was noted. Minutes accepted.

DEA Update, Paula Parker, Assistant Director

➤ **Rhody Health Options Data Update**

Paula is scheduled to meet with the Rhody Health Options (RHO) Oversight Committee and will obtain clarification on the figures Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI) provided in the SFY 2015 Report for DEA Services for RHO members. Paula hopes to be able to provide an accurate report for next month's meeting.

➤ **Home & Community Care Regulations Update**

The regulations will be forwarded to our attorney to review the language and make any necessary changes, revisions and recommendations. Paula will report back to the committee once the attorney has completed the review.

➤ **DEA Budget Update**

Paula notified the committee that DHS is considering looking at cuts to the CNOM/Co-Pay program as part of their required corrective action plan to reduce their SFY2015 budget. Paula urges strong advocacy to justify the importance of this program. Suggestions were made to compile all necessary data and facts along with correspondence to DHS administrators detailing the negative implications these cuts would have.

Several members of the committee expressed significant concerns with how these cuts will negatively impact access to quality community-based healthcare, home care and adult day care services to the frail and low-income utilizers, possibly resulting in more costly nursing home placement.

A decision was made that Nicholas Oliver, Chair of the Home and Community Care Advisory Committee (HCCAC) would prepare correspondence on behalf of the committee listing all of the above-listed concerns to Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Powell, requesting that these cuts not be included in DHS's corrective action plan to reduce the budget.

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program, George Sousa, Logisticare

Mr. Sousa gave an overview of the current status of LogistiCare discussing ongoing issues they continue to work on to improve transportation services. Major issues reported are related to insufficient training of transportation providers, lack of providers in certain regions of the state, lack of providers that offer

wheelchair accessibility, high volume of complaints from transportation providers, utilizers and healthcare facilities. They continue to work on bringing in new transportation providers that can offer a full range of accessibility services to accommodate all populations; reduce the number of rider no-shows where the client cancels at the last minute or is not home, late pickups and no-shows by transportation providers.

Mr. Sousa reported they are in the process of arranging a meeting with all Adult Day Care Center directors to address ongoing issues.

Future Meeting Suggestions

Suggestions were made to invite a representative from RI Neighborhood Health Plan to discuss Phase I to the next meeting and a representative from the Attorney General's office to discuss the Criminal Offender Record Information law regarding background checks.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32am.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 9:00am at The Division of Elderly Affairs, Garden Level Conference Room.

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