

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
MINUTES
February 24, 2015**

Attendance:

Nicholas Oliver; RIPHC / Committee Chair, Mary Ladd; DEA, Andrew Powers; DOH, Regina Spirito; Tri-Town CAP, Charles Fogarty; Director DEA, Diane Gallagher; Alliance BLTC, Katie Enright; Dept. of AG, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone, Kathleen Kelly; RIALA, Sarah Brown; RIALA Intern, Mary Lou Rhodes; VNS Home Health, Michael Walker; LeadingAgeRI, Linda A’Vant-Deishinni; Diocese of Providence, Amanda Clark; United Way 211 The POINT, Helen Grimaldi; C&FS, Paula Parker; DEA

1. The meeting began at 9:04 AM. Introductions followed.
2. The Minutes from the last meeting on November 25, 2014 were accepted as written; no corrections or additions.
3. **Introduction of DEA Director Charles Fogarty**
Director Fogarty presented remarks on his new appointment as the Division of Elderly Affairs Director including DEA’s vision for RI Seniors, DEA’s anticipation of working collaboratively with Senior groups and DEA’s commitment to identifying challenges that Seniors face in RI in efforts to initiate progress with respect to home and community based services for elders.
4. **DEA Update – Home & Community Care Programs**
Paula Parker; Assistant Director DEA
 - Presentation of the SFY 2015 Home and Community Care Program Utilization Report. This report compares second quarter data from SFY 2014 with SFY 2015 data. This data is reporting on DEA CNOM and Medicaid fee for service (FFS) programs. Rhody Health Options data is still being organized with the goal being completion within 30 days. This utilization report shows a drop in Medicaid fee for service: home care, Assisted Living and case management due to RHO managed care enrollments.
 - Expansion of the DEA Co-Pay Program (up to 250% of the FPL and under 65 with a diagnosis of Dementia) is contingent upon the Final Budget.
 - At this time the target goal for the promulgation of the DEA H&CC Rules and Regulations will be the end of this fiscal year.
5. **Appointment of New Home & Community Care Advisory Board Members**
Helen Grimaldi; Child & Family Service representing Case Management, Regina Spirito; Tri-Town Community Action Program representing Case Management and Michael Walker; LeadingAgeRI representing General Public; age 59 and under. New members were accepted as part of the H&CCAC. Welcome to these new members.
6. **National Criminal Background Check Provider Database Status Update**
***Joe Lindbeck / RI Attorney General’s Office**
Katie Enright / RI Attorney General’s Office

*Joe Lindbeck was unable to attend this month's meeting. Katie Enright reports that Joe plans to attend the March meeting of the committee and will be able to provide an update at that time. Discussion on this topic took place and questions were raised. Committee Chair Nicholas Oliver recommends that any questions regarding this topic be e-mailed to JLindbeck@riag.ri.gov prior to the March meeting.

**7. 2015 Legislative Update: House Bill 5515 on HCBS Medicaid Rate
Nicholas Oliver / Committee Chair**

- This bill is sponsored by RIPHC and LeadingAgeRI and addresses an increase on Medicaid fee for service Providers: Adult Day Care, Home Care and Home Nursing. There is a request for a 10% increase (and acuity level modifier) for these providers with respect to Medicaid fee for service. There is no fiscal note attached to this bill until the Governor's budget is presented on March 12th. The last time a standing increase was implemented was in 2002; there was an increase in 2008 which was rescinded in 2009.
- Chair Nicholas Oliver recommends that any future requests from committee members to address legislation, please e-mail director@riphc.org with specific bill and information so that it may be put on the Agenda.

8. Agenda Setting Discussion for March 24, 2015 Meeting

Suggestions:

- National Criminal Background Check Provider Database Update – Joe Lindbeck / RI Dept. of the Attorney General.
- Home and Community Care Program Utilization report from NHPRI with respect to RHO members.
- Home Care and VNA; new Dept. of Health Provider entrants.
- Home Healthsmith / Home Medical Equipment.

9. Public Comments and Announcements

- DEA has re-instated the After Hours Emergency Response Program for Elders in Crisis. United Way 211 and Gateway are the Providers of this program. For any elder in crisis that is called into the After Hours Program, United Way will provide triage and if necessary, Gateway will provide clinical intervention via telephone or in-person if necessary. Emergency Respite is a component of this program if the elder at risk cannot stay home alone and has no other supports. Mary Ann Ciano is the Program Manager at DEA.
- House Bill 5074 is the Minimum Wage Bill seeking a 12 1/4 % increase. This bill has an impact on HCBS providers.

10. Adjourn Meeting at 10:15 AM

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 24, 2015; 9:00 to 10:30 AM

Garden Level Conference Room / Hazard Building; 74 West Road, Cranston, RI

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ladd
DEA H&CC Coordinator
February 24, 2015