

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs  
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
January 26, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Nicholas Oliver, RIPHC; Paula Parker, DEA; Melody Rodrigues, DEA; Diane Gallagher, Alliance BLTC; Charles Dress, AARP; Marylou Rhodes, RI Partnership/ Homecare; Linda Avant-Deishinni, Diocese of Providence; Regina Spirito, Tri-Town CAP; Verteal Patterson, AARP; Kathleen Kelly, RIALA,; Kelly Lee, PACE/ADCW; Dottie Santagata, Cornerstone ADC; Gretchen Bell, NHPRI; Jim Nyberg, RIALA

1. The meeting began at 9:10 AM.
2. The Minutes from the last meeting held on November 24, 2015 were approved; motion made by Verteal Patterson and seconded by Charles Dress to approve minutes. Passed.
3. **DEA-Update- Rebalancing LTC**  
**Paula Parker- DEA**
  - DEA has continued its rebalancing efforts with guidance from the Governor's office, in addition to reaching out to state colleagues in Minnesota.
  - Rebalancing recommendations include:
    - Establish statewide leadership led by the Governor to develop and implement a plan to rebalance the delivery of LTSS for all Rhode Island seniors and adults with disabilities, regardless of income.
      - Measured goals of reaching 50% of Medicaid LTSS spending for elders and older adults with physical disabilities by 2020.
      - Establish benchmarks on which progress can be measured.
      - To include current percent of LTSS expenditures on institutional care vs HCBS, Medicaid and co-pay LTSS eligibility turnaround times.
    - Commit to an expansion of the current Rhode Island Aging and Disability Resource Center model known as "THE POINT" to provide person centered planning counseling to all Rhode Islanders regardless of income who are seeking information about options for LTSS.
    - Engaging nursing home stakeholders to redesign the nursing home landscape in RI.
    - Establish an EOHHS workgroup to study the current eligibility process for LTSS with a goal of streamlining and automating the process.
    - Target "pre-Medicaid" population who are at risk for placement in long term care settings to delay nursing home admissions.
    - Implement a managed care system of LTSS in RI for elders who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.
    - Invest in competitive reimbursement rates for community based providers to ensure a sustainable workforce with opportunities for career advancement.

- Convene a stakeholder group to review the state Nurse Practice Act with the goal of expanding nurse delegation of health maintenance and nursing tasks.
- DEA will look to this committee to provide information regarding home care and assisted living rates

**4. 2016 Legislative update**

**Paula Parker/ Division of Elderly Affairs; Assistant Director**

- In support of the state’s efforts to rebalance its long term care system, DEA has developed several strategies to expand the co-pay program to provide for the delivery of services to a greater number of Rhode Island citizens.
  - Proposed change include:
    - The expansion of the populations eligible for co-pay to include an increase from 200% to 250% of the FPL.
    - Provide services to individuals who are between the ages of 19-64 who have a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease.
  - In January 2016, DEA learned that the HCC regulatory changes were subject to approval by General Assembly under the provisions of RIGL 42-12.4-7, the Rhode Island Medicaid Reform Act of 2008 which requires GA approval of regulation changes to waiver programs that were in existence prior to the implementation of the Waiver in 2009.
  - The HCC regulatory process cannot be finalized until the General Assembly approval is provided at the end of the legislative session.
  - DEA will not expand the populations eligible for the Co-pay program until SFY 2017, contingent on the promulgation of the HCC Rules and the availability of budgetary funds.
  - As of 2/1/16, the Medicaid rates for Adult Day Care have increased and will now be on a tiered system paying \$45 for tier 1 and \$65 for tier 2.
  - DEA will identify trends and growth for both Fee for Service and Neighborhood clients and provide at a future meeting.
  - It was decided that at the next meeting DEA will provide an overview of the proposed budget.
  - The committee chair asked for any legislative items to be discussed by this committee. Nothing new came forward at this time.

**5. Public Comments and Announcements**

- The committee would like to extend thanks to the direct care workers who provide care to members in the community on an ongoing basis.
- Congratulations to our partners at AARP on their volunteer efforts for volunteer work in the community.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melody Rodrigues  
DEA H&CC Coordinator  
February 2, 2016