

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
MINUTES
February 23, 2016**

Attendance:

Nicholas Oliver; RIPHC, Paula Parker; DEA, Melody Rodrigues; DEA, Ana Rosario; DEA, Charles Dress; AARP, Marylou Rhodes; RI Partnership/ Homecare, Linda Avant-Deishinni; Diocese of Providence, Regina Spirito; Tri-Town CAP, Ver teal Patterson; AARP, Kathleen Kelly; RIALA, Kelly Lee; PACE/ADCW, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone ADC, Gretchen Bell; NHPRI, Christina Amedeo; UWRI, Mike Walker; Leading Age RI, Meghan Connelly; DEA, Jessica Mowry; EOHHS, Josh Pacewicz; Brown University, Katie Enright; Dept. of Attorney General

1. The meeting began at 9:03 AM.
2. The Minutes from the last meeting held on January 26, 2016 were approved; motion made by Ver teal Patterson and seconded by Marylou Rhodes to approve minutes. Passed.
3. **DEA UPDATE-**
Charles Fogarty- Division of Elderly Affairs; Director
 - Director Fogarty distributed the most recent version of the DEA Pocket Manual.
 - In efforts to expand communications DEA has launched its Twitter and Facebook pages. DEA has also revamped our email contact list in order to distribute important information to the community partners. If you would like to be added to this list please contact Meghan Connelly- [Meghan.connelly@dea.ri.gov](mailto: Meghan.connelly@dea.ri.gov).
 - Facebook page is RI Division of Elderly Affairs
 - Twitter handle is @The_RIDEA
 - Director Fogarty also spoke regarding the Governors FY 2017 budget which provided a net increase of one million in General Revenue funding to DEA programs.
 - Provide additional funding for Senior Centers
 - Increase Meals on Wheels Services
 - The DEA Co-Pay expansion originally anticipated for this year has been postponed after DEA learned such changes required approval by the General Assembly. DEA will not proceed with expansion until SFY 2017, contingent on the promulgation of the HCC Rules and the availability of budgetary funds.
 - DEA was asked to provide recommendations in order to accomplish a 7% budget reduction for SFY 2017.
 - For SFY2017, the Volunteer Guardianship Program was not funded.
 - The Alliance for Better Long Term Care that has been level funded for a number of years will receive a reduction in funding.

4. DEA-Update- Rebalancing LTC
Paula Parker- Division of Elderly Affairs; Assistant Director

- DEA plans to have a draft to the Governor's office within 4-6 weeks which will state rebalancing recommendations.
- Paula Parker has stated this document is a working document. She will provide this document to the Committee and welcomes input.
- DEA anticipates partnering with an MSW student intern who will provide support and research for this process.

5. 2016 Legislative Update

- A bill has been introduced which would allow a nursing student who is actively matriculated in a nursing program to participate in the medication aid training exam and be able to deliver and dispense medication under supervision of a supervising nurse. This bill is sponsored by Representative David Bennett and Senator Donna Nesselbush.
- A bill has been introduced regarding the Medicaid approval process. This bill would allow for providers to issue a letter to EOHHS requesting payment from the state for cases pending LTSS eligibility approval beyond 60 days. The state would inform the provider of the status of the approval and shall make payment to the provider for the care provided to the applicant in full as though the application were approved, beginning on the date of such request.

Public Comments and Announcements

- A discussion occurred regarding National BCI Checks. Katie Enright from the Attorney General's office agreed to provide more information and has stated a training for agencies will occur on March 9th 2016.
- An acknowledgment by Meghan Connelly on the new Academy Training sessions which occur monthly at the Johnston Senior Center.
- The Chairman would like to bring attention an initiative providing National Voter Education called Bring the Vote. This initiative aims to inform voters on where candidates stand on a variety of issues. More information can be found on the website Bringthevotehome.org.
- A suggestion was made to invite the administrator of DHS LTC to attend a future meeting. DEA will reach out to Stephanie Terry with an invite.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody Rodrigues
DEA H&CC Coordinator
February 29, 2016