

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs  
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
March 22, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Nicholas Oliver; RIPHC, Paula Parker; DEA, Melody Rodrigues; DEA, Charles Dress; AARP, Marylou Rhodes; RI Partnership/ Homecare, Linda Avant-Deishinni; Diocese of Providence, Regina Spirito; Tri-Town CAP, Verteal Patterson; AARP, Kelly Lee; PACE/ADCW, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone ADC, Gretchen Bell; NHPRI, Mike Walker; Leading Age RI, Josh Pacewicz; Brown University, Diane Gallagher; Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Jessica Doyle; RI Attorney General,

1. The meeting began at 9:01 AM.
2. The Minutes from the last meeting held on February 23, 2016 were approved; motion made by Verteal Patterson and seconded by Charles Dress to approve minutes. Passed.

**3. DEA-Update- Rebalancing LTC**

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

- Director Fogarty has submitted a draft report to Director DePeña-Affigne and Secretary Roberts.
- A meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2016 to discuss DEA proposals and to identify the direction going forward.
- As requested, DEA distributed 2015 and 2016 Home and Community Care utilization data. At a future meeting DEA will provide a 5 year look back of HCC services. DEA anticipates continued utilization growth.
- DEA agreed to invite DEA CFO Janice Cataldo to a future meeting to answer co-pay funding questions.

**4. Discussion Re: Committee Vacancies**

**Melody Rodrigues-Division of Elderly Affairs**

- An updated listing of committee members was distributed.
- A discussion occurred regarding concerns for adequate representation.
- Both DEA and the committee chair agreed to work together to fill vacancies and to ensure adequate representation.
- The Chairman discussed the option to form a workgroup if needed to revise the current statute addressing committee membership.

**5. 2016 Legislative Update**

- **House Bill 7728/ Senate Bill 2557- FY2017 - Medicaid Home Care Fee- for-Service Reimbursement Rate Increase Proposal** was discussed. This bill requests a 40% increase in all home healthcare service reimbursement rates under the state's Medicaid program. This would include personal care and homemaker service, as well as skilled nursing, therapy, and pediatric home care.

- **House Bill 7160 was discussed.** An act relating to insurance- The Telemedicine Coverage Act. This bill authorized the provision of the healthcare services by “telemedicine” on the same basis as face-to-face consultation, where appropriate and will require healthcare insurers to adjust their coverage protocol accordingly.
- **House Bill 7355 was discussed.** This bill would add siblings to the class of workers who can receive temporary disability for caregiver services.

### **Public Comments and Announcements**

- Committee member Charles Dress agreed to reach out to both John O’Hara and Catherine Graziano to inquire about recent absences.
- A revised meeting schedule was distributed.
- The Chairman announced a Home Care and Hospice Day Event will occur on April 12, 2016 at 3:00 at the State House Rotunda. He invited members of this committee to attend.
- A concern was addressed regarding the date of the next meeting being in conflict with the State Primary. The Chairman decided to continue with the scheduled meeting however will recognize prior commitments of members who volunteer at polling locations.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melody Rodrigues  
DEA H&CC Coordinator  
March 25, 2016