

**Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
Home & Community Care Advisory Committee
MINUTES
May 24, 2016**

Attendance:

Nicholas Oliver; RIPHC, Melody Rodrigues; DEA, Charles Dress; AARP, Marylou Rhodes; RI Partnership/ Homecare, Kathy McKeon; Diocese of Providence, Regina Spirito; Tri-Town CAP, Verteal Patterson; AARP, Dottie Santagata; Cornerstone ADC, Mike Walker; Leading Age RI, Diane Gallagher; Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Jessica Doyle; RI Attorney General, Jim Nyberg; Leading Age RI, Kim Capuano; UWRI, George Dubuque; UWRI, Jennifer Reid; EOHHS, Sylvia Bernal; UWRI

1. The meeting began at 9:00 AM.
2. The Minutes from the last meeting held on April 26, 2016 were approved; motion made by Verteal Patterson and seconded by Charles Dress to approve minutes. Passed.

3. Update- Home Care Crisis Impacting DEA Clients

Nicholas Oliver- RIPHC

- The Chairman provided an update on recent meetings that have occurred since the last Advisory meeting on April 26, 2016 regarding the impact and concerns surrounding home care.
- The Chairman has recently met with Directory Fogarty and Assistant Director Paula Parker.
- Director Fogarty raised these concerns to Secretary Roberts.
- The Chairman stated that he anticipates a vote on the budget by the first week in June and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- The Chairman stated he expects the legislative session to be completed by mid-June.
-

4. Committee Vacancies

- The Chairman discussed committee vacancy concerns and suggested a workgroup to meet over the summer.
- A call for a volunteer was made to facilitate this workgroup. Hearing none, it will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Chairman stated that he would like to vote on a recommendation for a vice-chair at a future meeting. This will be put on the agenda for June 2016.
- Dottie Santagata stated the concerns the committee had previously raised were in regards to the current statute.
- Chairman acknowledged this and informed the group that any changes would require legislative action.

5. 2016 Legislative Update

- **Charles Dress discussed - House Bill 7160 -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.

- Mr. Dress announced that AARP is holding a rally at the State House on May 24, 2016 to support this bill.
- This bill passed in the House has been referred to Senate Health and Human Services.
- **Jim Nyberg discussed issues relating to the DEA Co-pay Program.**
- Concerns were heard regarding the plan to expand the eligibility requirements for the DEA Co-Pay program and the status of Article 7 being uncertain as it does not include specific areas pertaining to the expansion.
- A question was raised regarding rate reforms for the Co-Pay Adult Day Care Provider not being address in the budget article.
- Committee members expressed concerns that the state is not committing to changes to support Rebalancing of the Long Term Care System.
- The Committee has asked for an immediate response from Director Fogarty regarding the status of the proposed changes to the co-pay program.

Public Comments and Announcements

- Committee member Kathy McKeon discussed the effectiveness of a Managed Care system in RI and the impact it may have on local agencies as well as services.
- A recommendation was made to invite Directory Fogarty to the next meeting.
- Committee Member Kathy McKeon announced a powerful tools training intended for caregivers.
- The Chairman announced that meetings have and will continue to occur every Friday in the month of May to provide information on the ICI Phase II initiative. Sessions are being held at the Corner Bakery Café in Cranston.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody Rodrigues
DEA H&CC Coordinator
May 24, 2016