

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, November 17, 2004

1:00 p.m.

Department of Labor and Training

1st Floor Conference Room

1511 Pontiac Avenue

John O. Pastore Center

Cranston, Rhode Island

Members in Attendance:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, DEA; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS; Kathleen Spangler, MHRH; Ronald Lebel, DHS; Rollin Bartlett, DBR designee; Adelita Orefice, DLT

Absent:

Beverly Najarian, DOA; Jeff Grybowski, Co-Chair, Governor's Office; Patricia A. Nolan, MD, DOH;

Department Representatives:

Jorge Garcia, Governor's Office; Frank Spinelli, DHS; Michelle Mickey, DHS; Dianne Kayala, DHS, Paulla Lipsey, DEA, Bill Waters, DOH

I. Opening Remarks

Corinne Calise Russo called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The October minutes were approved and seconded.

II. Working Group Reports

- **Aging and Disability Resource Center – Dianne Kayala**

Dianne Kayala reported that PSI Marketing was awarded the contract for the ADRC. The firm will meet with the One Stop workgroup to begin brainstorming for the center's logo and name. The ADRC Grantee Semi-Annual Report was submitted to the Administration on Aging.

- **Medicare Reform – Frank Spinelli**

Frank Spinelli reported that the National Association of State Medicaid

Director's will be working with Congress to get a delay in implementing

Part D for the dual eligible Medicare population and that some states desire the law to be change to allow a state to become a Part D plan.

On January 1, 2005 Part D will begin an auto enrollment. The New England states are interested in instituting an application

adjudication process across the region and hope that the regulations will allow them just to forward applications to the Social Security Administration.

III. New Directions

- **Nursing Home Safety Act – Jorge Garcia**

Mr. Garcia presented the Governor's Nursing Home Resident Safety Act. Jorge Garcia stated that some legislation will be needed to facilitate change. The four areas identified for possible changes are increasing owner accountability; authority to intervene in troubled facilities; establishing a state-appointed safety monitor program and authority to evaluate financial solvency. The discussion that followed focused on the importance of nursing home leadership, solvency and early identification of facilities at high risk.

- **Medical Officer at Quality Partners of RI – David Gifford, MD**

Dr. Gifford spoke on increasing the quality of care in RI nursing homes through a five point strategy: additional work force training; how to care for pressure ulcers; train nurses as managers; report resident treatment and progress with the resident and their family; and to create a facilitating forum. Adelita Orefice stated that grants should be pursued to fund the nurse manager training. Frank Spinelli is hopeful the new skills learned in the nurse manager training program will reduce job turnover and stabilize the work force. Jane Hayward stated that the decrease in the number of RI educational and clinical training slots have contributed to the shortage of RNs and other medical professionals in the state. She encouraged the medical community to explore another avenue for clinical training, the non traditional site. Corinne Calise Russo suggested that retired RNs might be enticed to return to the profession with a change in workplace conditions, economics, flexible hours and an increased

level of professionalism giving to the profession. Discussion followed on how to target, fund, educate and retain nurses in RI.

IV. Other Business and Announcements

Corinne Calise Russo voiced concern that RIPAE auto enroll to date numbers 7,868 persons. There are concerns to move to Medicare Part D.

Public Comments

None.

V. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2005. Happy Holidays were wished to all. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Ann Gardella, Kelly Lee, Kathleen Kelly, Russell Gifford, Steve Jennings, Maria Maitas, Paula Parker, Al Santos

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs