

Minutes

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, April 14, 2005

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:

Jeff Grybowski, Co-Chair, Governor's Office; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS; David Gifford, MD, DOH; Ron Lebel, DHS; Kathleen Spangler, MHRH; Rollin Bartlett, DBR designee; Lisa D'Agostino DLT designee

Excused:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, DEA; Beverly Najarian, DOA

Department Representatives:

David Hamel, Governor's Office; Kathy McKeon, DEA; John Young, DHS; Dianne Kayala, DHS; Jeanne Hunter, DHS; Paulla Lipsey, DEA; Kristin Pono, DEA; Paula Parker, DEA; Donna Cone, DEA and Elaina Goldstein, URI

I. Opening Remarks

Jeff Grybowski called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Mr. Grybowski filled in for Corinne Calise Russo who is recovering from surgery. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February minutes as corrected.

II. Working Group Reports

- **Aging and Disability Resource Center – Kathy McKeon**

Kathy McKeon reported that the Lewin Group met with OHHS directors and department representatives to discuss ADRC site planning on March 28. The ADRC work group is in the process of establishing a phone bank as well as anticipating the final report from PSI marketing regarding the center's name, logo and customer service standards. Jeff Grybowski asked Kathy McKeon if work has begun on building 79 with the \$500,000 allocated for first floor renovations in '06 budget. Kathy stated that the first floor is designated for the ADRC direct service staff and phone center and that the second floor would house DEA staff. Kathy voiced concern for rising renovation cost if the project was done in stages. Jeff stated the funds were allocated to begin first floor renovations.

- **Medicare Part D**

Dual Eligible - John Young

John Young reported that the federal government has not released any new information on Medicare Part D reform. Jane Hayward stated that both Medicaid and Medicare will transition to Medicare Part D.

Jeff Grybowski asked for an update on Medicaid reform. John Young stated that Medicaid reform information is not forthcoming. Some states have agreements on accounting practices to stabilize public funds. However, RI does not adhere to the current Medicaid accounting practices. Ron Lebel reported that RI Medicaid money has decreased due to the rebound in the state's economy and, unless Congress establishes limits, federal participation will decline.

SPAP – Kristin Pono

Kristin Pono reported that DEA staff attended SPAP training in Washington, DC where state representatives discussed SPAP marketing strategies. Kristin Pono announced that DEA will make RIPAE presentations to the Governor, legislators and other state officials. Jeff Grybowski stated that the Governor needs to hear options on the future of RIPAE. Kristin mentioned that there are options; however, without knowing the benefit rate it is difficult to determine dollar amounts. Ralph Rodriguez stated that RIPAE is linked to Part D and that currently there are 45,000 to 50,000 RIPAE recipients with a potential uptake of an additional 12,000 to 15,000 recipients in terms of income eligibility. Elaina Goldstein raises concern that providers will not offer the same drugs offered by Medicaid. Ralph Rodriguez reported that RIPAE benefits are more

generous.

Kristin Pono reported that DEA has an RFP which will deliver Medicare Part D information to current RIPAE recipients. Jane Hayward and Kathleen Spangler spoke to concerns that Part D benefits would be difficult for Medicare recipients with disabilities to understand due to language and literacy levels. Kristin stated CMS and Social Security are planning an intensive informational campaign in May. Jeff Grybowski asked that Jane Hayward and Corinne Calise Russo decide how to present options to the Governor. John Young suggested everyone use a single script.

New Directions

- **Elder Rights Initiative – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker reported that she meet with Providence Police to request funding for a safe place for senior at risk to be taken after hours. Paula Parker stated that Ralph Rodriguez is preparing a synopsis of information gleaned from Paul Pisano, Esq., in terms of his review of RIGL as it relates to elder abuse and the DEA investigative protocol and response time to report abuse. Paula reported attending a meeting with Director Russo, Donna Cone and Vin McAteer (DCYF) to discuss the policies and procedures used to operation the DCYF 24 hour abuse hot line. Ralph Rodriquez will meet with Dave Hamel regarding justification for a 24 hour abuse line for DEA. Ralph raised concerns regarding the difficultly DEA has with

recruiting guardians for community based clients and the need for legal services to assist the guardianship issue. Jeff Grybowski suggested DEA approach DCYF and the Bar Association for legal assistance and the Department of Business Regulation for issues of elder financial abuse.

III. Other Business and Announcements

- **White House Conference on Aging – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker announced the White House Conference on Aging will be held on October 23-27, 2005 in Washington, DC. Listening Sessions are scheduled for May 16; May 21; June 6; and June 11, 2005, all are welcome. Feedback from the listening sessions will shape the policy recommendations our delegates take to the White House Conference on Aging.

- **Dr. Gifford reported that he is optimistic the bills before the legislature regarding nursing home reform will pass.**

Public Comments

None.

IV. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

**Kelly Lee, Marie Citrone, Gretchen Sechio, Joan Kwiatkowski, Rev.
Paul Bliss and Alan Tavares**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs