

Minutes

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, May 12, 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:

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

Excused:

Jeff Grybowski, Co-Chair, Governor's Office; Beverly Najarian, DOA

Department Representatives:

David Hamel, Governor's Office; Kathy McKeon, DEA; John Young, DHS; Frank Spinelli, DHS; Jeanne Hunter, DHS; Paulla Lipsey, DEA; Paula Parker, DEA; Paulla Lipsey, DEA and Elaina Goldstein, URI

I. Opening Remarks

Corinne Calise Russo called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. She

announced that copies of the DEA 2005 pocket manual listing program services and eligibility levels are available at the Department.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved and seconded.

II. Working Group Reports

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

Kathy McKeon gave Cabinet attendees copies of the ADRC Marketing (PSI) update that recommends the name Access Point RI, “Resources for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities. PSI will present logo design and ask for feedback on the center name at the June 7, 2005 meeting of the ADRC Advisory Committee Meeting. Several attendees mentioned Access Point RI might be confused with Access RI, a local agency offering assistance to the homeless. Kathy McKeon stated that she will discuss this new information with PSI. She reported that DEA staff and community information specialists from local agencies have completed 7 hours of AIRS Standards training.

- **Medicare Part D**

Dual Eligible - John Young

John Young reported that the federal government has not released

any new information. Numerous phone inquiries are anticipated due to the omission of contact phone numbers in the recent CMS mailing to newly eligibles in RI. He also stated that the House Finance Committee estimates the phase down contribution for dual eligibles to be \$4 million in '06 and \$7 million in '07. And that RIPAE policy decisions are also before the House Finance Committee. John Young reported that dual eligibles are not eligible for the discount prescription card. Also, CMS has not provided any guidance for the gap insurance coverage. He mentioned that OHHS is planning a Part D Summit in the fall to consolidate Medicare Part D information mailed to RI seniors.

Frank Spinelli reported that the SSA appeal process is now done by video. He also stated 46,000 low income dual eligible Rhode Islanders will receive a letter from SSA this week. Frank Spinelli stated that CMS will announce the approved Medicare Part D Pharmaceutical companies in September.

CIS Grants and Enhanced CIS Grants – Corinne Calise Russo

Corinne Calise Russo reported DEA received additional SPAP funding to provide training for CIS workers and the enhanced grants will allow area agencies to extend their hours of operation to assist with Medicare Part D questions.

New Directions

- **Elder Rights Initiative – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker stated the Elder Rights Initiative was a charge given to the Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care in a letter to Director Russo. The Committee reviewed DEA abuse reporting and investigation protocol as well as the guardianship issue and elder crisis intervention. The Elder Rights Initiative will be submitted to the Governor on July 1, 2005.

III. Other Business and Announcements

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

Director Russo announced the White House Conference on Aging scheduled for October 23-27, 2005 in Washington, DC will be rescheduled to a later date in 2005. Paula Parker reported the Listening Sessions have been well publicized by DEA, local newspapers, the Senior Journal, advocacy groups and radio spots. Listening Sessions are scheduled for May 16; May 21; June 6; and June 11, 2005, discussion will focus on the issues facing seniors and the rising senior population.

- **Nursing Home Safety Act – Don Williams**

Don Williams reports that the Nursing Home Safety bills are in response to the incidents leading up to the closing of Hillside Nursing Home. He stated that the bills introduced by the Governor, Lt.

Governor, the Attorney General and others focuses on the key components of financial solvency, disclosure of ownership, clarification of responsibilities, quality predictive modeling and statutorily required oversight actions. However, the bills do differ in detail.

Public Comments

Frank Woods voiced his disappointment with the Governor's failure to keep his campaign promise of establishing and maintain open communications with the senior population. Mr. Woods also stated he and a number of seniors are not aware of plans for the ADRC and suggested a publicity campaign be undertaken. Director Russo stated that the ADRC, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, is often referred to as the One Stop, which could be confusing to members of the community. However, she stated that the senior network is aware of the development and the on-going planning for the ADRC (One Stop).

IV. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Kelly Lee, Marie Citrone, Ann Gardella, Gretchen Sechio, Joan Kwiatkowski, Rev. Paul Bliss, Alan Tavares, Linda Hughes, Cynthia Conant-Arp, Christopher Novak and Frank Woods

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Slemon
Assistant to the Director
Department of Elderly Affairs