

Minutes

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, July 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:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, DEA; 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; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS

Department Representatives:

David Hamel, Governor's Office; Kathy McKeon, DEA; Jeanne Hunter, DHS; Paula Parker, DEA; Herb Constantine, MD, DOH; Kristin Pono, DEA; Donna Cone, DEA; Maryann Ciano, DEA and Elaina Goldstein, URI

I. Opening Remarks

Corinne Calise Russo called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The minutes of the May 12, 2005 meeting were approved and seconded.

II. Working Group Reports

• Aging and Disability Resource Center – Kathy McKeon

Kathy McKeon stated that this is the third year of a three year federal grant from the Administration on Aging and CMS for the ADRC project, which will now be referred to as The Point. The prime focus of The Point is education, the call center, the website linked to the call line and a location to house the project. The recommended building allocation of \$500,000 to renovate Building 79 to house The Point at the Pastore Center has been reduced to \$25,000 in the '06 budget; delaying the realization of the physical site. However, the dedicated phone line 462-4444 has been established. The funding of Access grant agencies throughout the state will allow non-traditional evening and weekend hours of operation in the call center. Kathy McKeon reported that RIPTA is interested in providing transportation from Providence to The Point's location on the Pastore Campus.

• Medicare Part D – Kristin Pono

Kristin Pono stated that the US Secretary of Health and Human Services will be in Warwick on July 15 with the Medicare Mobile Tour. He will be joined by the Governor and other state officials at the

Buttonwoods Community Center for a press conference beginning at Noon. Rhode Islanders who are Medicare eligible are encouraged to attend this important information session.

Kristin Pono reported RIPAE legislation passed keeping RIPAE in tact. DEA will continue to educate the RIPAE recipients on the new Medicare Part D options. Corinne Calise Russo stated that all RIPAE recipients have received a letter and folder from DEA encouraging them to keep all information they receive regarding prescription drug plans in the folder until further information is available.

III. New Directions

- Elder Rights Initiative – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker gave Cabinet attendees a copy of the report the AdHoc Work Group, (Donna Cone, Ph.D., DEA; Dianne Kayala, DHS; Paula Moreau, Alliance for Better Long Term Care; Paul Pisano, Esq., DHS; Ralph Rodriguez, Ph.D., DEA and Frank Spinelli, DHS) submitted with their recommendations for the objectives for an Office of Elder Protection; and a draft of a Senior Bill of Rights to the Governor on July 1st. David Hamel stated the Governor has not yet responded to the recommendations.

Corinne Calise Russo welcomed input as to concerns and experiences of working with elders living independently in the community. Leo Canuel voiced concern that adults with disabilities

were not included in the work done by the AdHoc Work Group. Paula Parker stated that the Governor's charge specifically addressed the elderly. Leo Canuel reiterated that the needs and rights of adults with disabilities do need attention. Kathy Harrington and Paula Moreau advocated for elder rights and abuse training for Police and Fire Fighters.

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

Paula Parker reported that a summary prioritizing issues discussed at the 4 RI Listening Sessions was submitted to the Policy Committee. Elders voiced their concerns to remain independent in their communities and their opportunities for re-employment. Paula Parker stated that after the scheduled September 12th RI Mini Conference she will write an analysis of the issues. Bob Caffrey asked how the recommendations will affect state policy. Corinne Calise Russo stated recommendations will affect nation policy and be incorporated into the Older American's Act. Bob Caffrey also stated concern for the lack of funds for community based long term care.

- **Nursing Home Legislation – Don Williams**

Don Williams gave Cabinet attendees a copy of the new Nursing Home Legislation. He briefly discussed some of the key components of the legislation: criteria for the prioritization of complaints and categories; financial condition's of facilities at risk; medical directors responsibility for standards, and a new requirement for staffing; notification of deficiencies to residents; family counseling; disclosure

in the licensing process. Don Williams stated that detailed regulation language will be in place by November / December '05.

IV. Other Business and Announcements

None

Public Comments

• Frank Woods stated that East Greenwich elders are trying to achieve a tax free status on real estate. He asked if DEA could assist with developing tax options to propose to town councils. Corinne Calise Russo responded stating that the Governor has budgeted additional funds for tax rebates. She suggested that Mr. Woods work on the tax issue with the Silver Hair Legislature.

V. Adjourn

Corinne Calise Russo stated that Cabinet meetings will be held every two months to allow work groups to make progress. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Kelly Lee, Bob Caffrey, Alan Tavares, Christopher Novak, Leo Canuel, Frank Woods, Paula Moreau, Kathleen Harrington, Bob McDonough, Steven Florio, Kathleen Heren

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs