

**DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS
HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 24, 2006

Attendance: Liz Morancy, Chair

Corinne Calise Russo, DEA

Paulla Lipsey, DEA

Michelle Szylin, DEA

Donna M. Cone, Ph.D, DEA

Alan Tavares, RI Partnership for Home Care

Christian Stephens, NRI CS/Elder Case Management Agencies

Helene Zuffoletti, Alliance for Better Long Term Care

Jay Burdick, Diocese of Providence

Dolores Dupre, Alternative Care

Jean Anderson, VNS of Newport and Bristol Counties

Donna Rotondi, Lt Governor's Office

Maureen Glynn, Attorney General's Office

Karen Lavoie, Student Intern

Kathleen Kelly, RIALA

Dottie Santagata, RIADSA

Dianne Kayala, DHS

Gloria Williams, AARP

Meeting was called to order by Chair Liz Morancy at 9:14 a.m.

Review of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mr. Stephens reported that the minutes did not reflect some of the issues discussed at the last meeting. He wanted to add conversation about the Advisory Committee getting copies of the EDS reports in order to advocate for the department. Mr. Stephens made a motion to add this language to the minutes and Mr. Tavares seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Morancy asked if anyone had other comments or corrections. She asked for suggestions for another meeting place. Mr. Tavares asked about the cost of meeting at the Village at Elmhurst. Chair Morancy said it cost nothing and it is centrally located. The meetings will continue at the Village. Ms. Lipsey will confirm 2006 meeting dates with the Village.

Home and Community Care Rules and Regulations

Mr. Tavares asked if the Home and Community Care Rules and Regulations are official. Dr. Cone explained that they were and she would have copies for the entire committee at the next meeting. After the Public Hearing there were very minor changes. The essence of the Rules remained the same.

Committee Appointments

Chair Morancy has called for the replacement of Paul Choquette who

represents the Governor's Commission on Disabilities inasmuch as he has never attended a meeting. She also has a call into the Department of Health for a replacement for Levond Jones who retired.

Program Updates

Dr. Cone spoke about the status of the Medicare Part D Program. DEA is receiving statistics on how many calls are being made to The Point since its opening on November 1, 2005. The Point is still not receiving many calls on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings. However, staff of The Point are returning calls for CIS and Access Agencies that are overwhelmed with calls from people concerning Medicare Part D and RIPAE recertification.

All persons who were on RIPAE have to reapply. This is the first recertification since the program was launched over 20 years ago. With RIPAE recertification and Medicare Part D happening together, the volume of work is tremendous. DEA has decided to recertify RIPAE members every five (5) years, a change that will be included in the revised Rules when they are drafted later this year.

Mr. Stephens asked if DHS workers were working at The Point. Ms. Kayala responded that people are on loan temporarily just to assist with Medicare Part D.

DEA Director's Report

Director Russo reported that 15 new Ship volunteers are being trained in Long Term Care Insurance. She also stated that Dr. Cone has assumed supervision of the Home and Community Care Unit within DEA and is performing a portion of the duties previously carried out by Kathleen McKeon, who retired in December, 2005. Director Russo also reported service numbers for the Home and Community Care Program and stated that there is no waiting list for Home and Community Care services.

DEA is in the process of developing an After Hours Emergency Response for Elder Abuse. A white paper was presented to Governor Carcieri for funding this initiative.

Mr. Stephens asked about changes in assisted living. There are no changes in the SSI Enhanced Program at this time. The Home and Community Care Unit will continue to conduct screening through the case management agencies for the over 65 and Marie Strauss is doing screenings for the under 65 since Denise Medeiros retired. Ms. Lipsey explained that this program is not a waiver and DEA only does a screening for appropriateness, not a full-blown assessment. Individuals are not followed after they are placed.

Home & Community Care Programs

Ms. Lipsey distributed a report on new clients by month since July 1, 2005. The numbers will change as more information comes into DEA from the vendors, the case managers, and the EDS billing.

DEA is looking at how it can increase the rates for funding to Adult Day Services Programs since these agencies are having increasing problems with expenses. The rate of Medicaid reimbursement is very low--\$37.93 per participant per day in attendance.

Michelle Szylin reported that there are 99 people waiting on the RIHMFC Waiver waiting list and 81 out of 99 are in non-RIMFC properties. There are a total of 198 people on the program because one facility has two slots assigned to them, but no one to fill the slots at this time.

Next Meeting

Chair Morancy requested that Committee members submit all legislative initiatives to her by the February meeting date so they can be reviewed by the Committee and submitted to the legislature. Paula Parker will report on DEA's initiatives at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on February 28 at the Villages at Elmhurst.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Ballard

Department of Elderly Affairs