

Minutes

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, January 12, 2006

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; Tim Costa, Co-Chair, Governor's Office; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS; Ron Lebel, DHS; David Gifford, MD, DOH; Adelita Orefice, DLT; Kathleen Spangler, MHRH; and Rollin Bartlett, DBR designee

Excused:

Beverly Najarian, DOA

Department Representatives:

Dave Hamel, Governor's Office; Paula Parker, DEA; Joan D'Agostino, DEA; Maryann Ciano, DEA; Paulla Lipsey, DEA; John Young, DHS; Frank Spinelli, DHS; Diane Kayala, DHS; Marie Strauss, DEA; Elaina Goldstein, DHS

I. Opening Remarks

Tim Costa called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

The minutes of the November 10, 2005 meeting were approved and seconded.

II. Working Group Reports

• The Point – Joan D'Agostino

Joan D'Agostino reported that the number of incoming calls has increased significantly due to inquiries for information on Medicare Part D and dual eligible benefits. The call volume increased from 2392 in November to 3345 in December. To date the January calls number 1873; 60% were Medicare Part D inquires. The Point received positive feedback from callers regarding the benefit rollback.

Tim Costa reported that the Governor's Office received numerous calls regarding Medicare Part D. He also stated that the dual eligibles will have a \$3.00 co-pay for medications. Jane Hayward announced that the Governor signed an Executive Order allowing Pharmacies to bill the State for prescription benefits for the dual eligibles; insuring their medications during the transition to Medicare Part D benefits. Rhode Island is among several states putting this emergency procedure into place. The Governor will continue to monitor the situation closely. Jane Hayward stated that volunteer Part D enrollees are also experiencing confusion at the Pharmacy with their

co-pays. Seniors found that on their initial visit to the Pharmacy, their plan changed the enrollment co-pay cost.

Corinne Calise Russo stated that all current RIPAE recipients must be recertified. The RIPAE recertification application includes an application for Social Security low income assistance which must be completed prior to the RIPAE recertification process. To date, DEA has conducted 150 RIPAE training sessions throughout the State.

- Adult Day Services – Donna Cone, Ph.D.**

Dr. Donna Cone distributed a handout of her presentation outlining the Adult Day Services Program administered by the DEA; as the state's single planning and service area agency for RI's 225,000 elders and younger adults with disabilities. The 19 adult day centers are licensed by the DEA as a "total person" model, providing respite for those whose families choose to maintain their loved one in the community. The direct care staffing required under the DEA licensing are: an RN or LPN with a minimum of 6 hours per day; a case manager, with quarterly scheduled assessments; an activities director; at least one CNA; and a sufficient number of program aides to give a 1 to 9 ratio (most have a 1 to 6 ratio). Services provided to Adult Day participants range from medication administration, toileting and ambulation, feeding and bathing. Staff members must learn new techniques to accommodate the influx of younger adults with disabilities. Dr. Cone reported that the daily Medicaid rate and the rate going to the Adult Day Centers from co-pay is \$37.93, per

participant per day; a recent increase of 2.2%. The median cost per participant per day is \$70.50, a short fall of approximately \$27 per participant per day.

III. New Directions

- **Pandemic Plan for RI – David Gifford, MD, MPH**

Dr. Gifford announced that he will be attending a Summit addressing Pandemic Planning on January 13 at 8:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick; featured speakers will be Secretary Leavitt and the US Surgeon General. Dr. Gifford explained how different cultural environments and relationships enhance the spread of bird flu to humans. He reported that the focus is to promote hand washing, limit children in groups, keep people informed and provide health care. Dr. Gifford outlined the regionalized Emergency Operations plan that would stockpile medications, medical equipment and supplies; coordinate the delivery of medical care; coordinate and maintain central services, i.e., government services, grocery stores and banks and coordinate business hours of operation. Dr. Gifford voiced his concern for the segment of the population who still do not have access to the Internet. Tim Costa stated the primary focus is to maintain government services if an outbreak occurs.

- **Office of Elder Rights – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker reported that the DEA is waiting for the Governor to approve funding for the After Hours Program allowing a clinician to

work with public safety personnel to insure the well being and placement of at risk seniors between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. DEA abuse intake staff is working with IT personnel to capture and secure intake data. Frank Spinelli stated that adults with disabilities living in the community are as vulnerable as the elderly.

White House Conference on Aging – Corinne Calise Russo

Director Russo reported that the White House Conference on Aging delegates voted on and ranked the importance of the issues plaguing seniors nationally. The following are the top national issues: reauthorization of the Older Americans Act; LTC strategy; insure transportation options and maintain mobility in the community; support geriatric education for health care; long term continuum of care; mental health; skilled health care professionals; improve delivery system. Strengthen Social Security; and promote incentives for the older worker. Director Russo will present her White House Conference on Aging report to the Governor at their February 9th meeting with the delegates to discuss conference resolutions.

• Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Severe Impairments – Bob Cooper
Bob Cooper reported that the rise in domestic abuse among adults with disabilities is attributed to several factors; divorce; aging parents are caregivers; and the absence of respite care for adults with disabilities until age 60. He is seeking support from the Cabinet for possible legislation. Jane Hayward stated that the OHHS Directors will discuss these issues at their next meeting.

IV. Other Business and Announcements

Tim Costa reported that the Governor has introduced legislation addressing all tax liens; while protecting vulnerable seniors from losing their homes.

Public Comments

None

V. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2006. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Kathleen Kelly, Cynthia Conant-Arp, Kelly Lee, Bob Cooper, Alan Tavares, Ann Gardella, Jim Nyberg, Russell Gifford, Melissa Smith, Jennifer Minuto, Kathleen Heren, Jennifer Martin, Sally Strachan and Sharon Brinkworth

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs