

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic & Long Term Care

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Meeting Notes

Members Present:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs, Co-Chair

Ronald A. Lebel, Esq., Director, Department of Human Services

Rollin Bartlett, designee, Department of Business Regulation

Madeline Vincent, designee, Department of Health

Attendees:

John Young

Frank Spinelli

Diane Kayala

Kristin Sousa

Donna Cone, Ph.D.

Paula Parker

Ralph Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Holly Garvey

Rhonda Schwartz

Kathleen Heren

Kathleen Kelly

Cynthia Conant-Arp

Al Travers

Christopher Novak

Welcome and Introductions

**Corinne Calise Russo, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs,
Co-Chair**

Chairwoman Russo opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. with welcoming remarks and a review of the previous Cabinet meeting notes for any additions and/or corrections. The meeting notes of the July 13, 2006 were approved without change. Chairwoman Russo announced Secretary Hayward and several Department Directors found it difficult to attend this meeting due to budget deadlines.

The Point

Kristin Sousa, Department of Elderly Affairs

Kristin Sousa reported that DEA was awarded the \$400,000 continuation grant. This funding will facilitate points of service throughout the state; additional personnel training with a focus on resources for adults with disabilities as well as streamlining the application process through the sharing of information with DHS. Ms. Sousa announced that Charlotte Becher replaces Lisa Fleury as Manager of The Point. Charlotte has a background in CIS, human services and has many creative ideas.

Healthy Aging with Chronic Disease

Donna Cone, Ph.D., Department of Elderly Affairs

Donna Cone thanked the team from DEA, DOH, DHS, MHRH and Brown University for their work with grant preparation. The Stanford Model training will begin on October 16, focusing on chronic disease education and patient self management. DOH, DHS and DEA representatives along with 12 approved health centers will complete the 4 and a half day training session and will be begin training consumers and caregivers. The program will educate individuals on how to manage their health concerns and tools to initiate a healthier lifestyle; positive results will include a decrease in medication cost, ER and office visits.

Para Transit Task Force

Jane Hayward, EOHHS

Secretary Hayward did not attend.

Medicare Patrol

Delia Rodriguez, DEA

Delia Rodriguez announced that DEA received the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) grant for \$170,000 through the Administration on Aging. RI will host the AOA grant officer on October 10 & 11, to review grant goals and procedures, meet the partners and to conduct the initial

training session. A press conference is scheduled for October 10 at 2:30 p.m. at the State House. The SMP will provide comprehensive, coordinated state wide information and referral system regarding Medicare fraud by partnering with The Point and regional access agencies.

RIPAE Update

Kristin Sousa, Department of Elderly Affairs

Kristin Sousa stated as of July 1, 2006 EDS is coordinating and processing RIPAE claims. Currently, there are 17,000 RIPAE recipients; 75%-80% are enrolled in Part D. Ms. Sousa attributes the accuracy and efficiency of RIPAE to the continued joint efforts of DEA and DHS. Ralph Rodriguez reported that CMS reevaluates Part D plan changes every year and has distributed a calendar of timelines for enrollees. He stated it is suggested that enrollees changing Part D providers do so by December 1 to avoid any lapse in coverage. Frank Spinelli mentioned that The Point is instrumental in assisting with Part D benefit clarification.

Office of Elder Protection

Paula Parker, Department of Elderly Affairs

Paula Parker reported that the Letter of Intent for the Office of Elder Protection was submitted to the state purchasing office on August 8, 2006.

Ms. Parker stated that the Independent Transportation Network Study Group met with Katherine Freund, the creator of ITN, to develop a business plan to ensure the sustainability of the model in RI. The Study Group will submit their report to the Governor and the General Assembly in January, 2007. The model will provide a flexible system of transportation options for seniors in RI. It will be available 24/7 to take seniors wherever they want to go, with door to door service and assistance. It will be sustainable without public funds after five years of operation.

Other Business and Announcements

None.

Chairwoman Russo adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.