

**The Long Term Care Coordinating Council
Aging in Community Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Location: SHALOM APARTMENTS MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY ROOM
2 Shalom Drive, Warwick RI

Attendance: Heather Amaral, Rachel Fillison, Bill Flynn, Judy Jones, Skye Leedahl, Maureen Maigret, Connie Milbourne, Manny Murray (for Mary Lou Moran), Jessica Mowry, Paula Parker, Marianne Raimondo, Corinne Russo, Kali Thomas

Guests: Janet Spinelli, Marie Klees, MaryAnn Ciano, Lydia Giglietti

1. Meeting convened at 9:20am by Ms. Maigret who called for introductions of attendees
2. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2015
On motion of Mr. Flynn the minutes were approved as distributed via email
3. Report of the Chair.
 - Maureen commented at hearing for proposed rules for Medicaid non-emergency transportation and the Elderly Transportation program to note that lack of affordable transportation options for elders who are transit dependent was one of the biggest issues brought up at the Aging in Community focus groups. She also advocated for Logisticare (the vendor providing the state funded transportation program for Medicaid and the elderly) to have an external contractor conduct a consumer satisfaction survey as complaints about the program seem to be ongoing.
 - Maureen contacted Eric Beane of Governor's staff to promote the restoration of funds for senior centers and respite services in the Governor's forthcoming budget to be announced on Feb. 2nd.
 - Bill Flynn discussed the need to restore these funds and that was a promise made by the Governor before the last election and noted that the current budget did include restoration of \$330,000 for Meals on Wheels which has alleviated the wait list. He made a motion to direct the Chair to communicate with the Governor to request these funding restorations on behalf of the Subcommittee as these were services gaps identified early on by the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Judy Jones and approved unanimously with Paula Parker abstaining.
4. Discussion of Elderly Mental Health Issues and work of the RI Elder Mental Health and Addiction Coalition

Janet Spinelli and Marie Klees, Co-Chairs of the Coalition provided a brochure about the Coalition and made the following points

- The Coalition has been in existence for many years with addiction added to its mission more recently
- Purpose is to improve and enhance mental health and substance abuse services for older adults
- Meets monthly at various locations and open to all
- Affiliated with National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (NCMHA) along with many other state coalitions
- All volunteer group with no funding or budget
- Provides training, advocacy, information for policy makers and others, and serves as forum for discussion and change
- Ms. Spinelli discussed what she sees as many issues needing attention including:
 - a. Need for programs/resources to deal with “at risk” older adults in crisis situations; to develop statewide standard protocols for service/system development; and disseminate resources via appropriate websites (ex. AG, Commission for Care and Safety of Elderly). Formerly there were crisis intervention services but these no longer exist statewide and police frequently are called in and take person to hospital. Great need for a crisis stabilization program/system to improve QOL, and reduce ER visits /extended ER/hospital stays.
 - b. Workforce issues and need to develop geriatric behavioral health provider capacity
 - c. Need for Opioid Abuse prevention program specific to older population that may include medication misuse & poly-pharmacy issues.
 - d. Addressing barriers due to misinformation about confidentiality rules
 - e. Need to promote nursing home transitions, diversion, and NF specialized services for disabilities consistent with Olmstead requirements and CMS LTC regulation reform.
 - f. Need for programs that do actual “hands on” benefit and housing access assistance – she stated providers are saying we don’t have staffing to do this anymore.
- Ms Maigret asked Janet if the Coalition would be willing to partner with the Subcommittee in its work and she said it could do so.

5. BHDDH planning for Elder Behavioral Health Issues

Jim Dealy, Coordinator of BHDDH SAMSHA Block grant --

This item was deferred as Mr. Dealy was not able to be present

6. Discussion of Division of Elderly Affairs Protective Services

MaryAnn Ciano, DEA Assistant Administrator, Protective Services

Lydia Giglietti, DEA, Sr. Casework Supervisor, Protective Services

A handout describing the DEA Protective Services program was distributed and reviewed by Ms. Giglietti. (Attached)

- Program is for persons age 60 or over.
- Intake process allows for triaging of referrals based on established criteria with standards for follow up based on priority assessment
 - a. Early Intervention – case is referred to one of four regional case management agencies for follow up (person needs to consent)
 - b. Self Neglect cases (ex. Hoarding, losing one's home) are referred to case management agency for follow up

Abuse cases – Unannounced visit by DEA staff to investigate (person must agree to be interviewed), community police senior advocates may become involved. Followed by development of care plan, referral to case management agency

- Ms Ciano provided handout (attached) showing statistics and noted that raw numbers of referrals have been relatively flat over past few years. Referrals come from many sources including physicians and professionals. It is estimated that only one in fourteen cases of elder abuse/neglect get reported. Ms. Maigret asked if many cases get prosecuted by Attorney General's Office and Ms. Ciano said few cases get prosecuted. It was noted that dealing with financial abuse is a challenge, it seems to be increasing and is an area in need of attention

7. Tufts Grant – Marianne Raimondo, Maureen Maigret
Marianne reported that following her work with Connie Milbourne to conduct the seven focus groups for the Subcommittee she worked with Connie, Rachel Fillison and Maureen to submit a grant proposal to the Tufts Foundation to support the work of the Subcommittee to build and “Age-friendly Rhode Island”. The grant was awarded for one year starting this month. It involves conducting additional focus groups, key informant interviews, more research on service needs and gaps, building an advocacy coalition with partner entities and development of the Strategic Plan.
Maureen reported that Tufts Foundation is working on developing a Healthy Aging in RI report that will include comprehensive data on state's older population with specific detail for each community. She is on Advisory Committee for the report. A similar report was done for Massachusetts in 2014 with an update in 2015. She will provide the link to the website for the MA report when she sends out the minutes.
8. The meeting adjourned at 10:40AM.

Attachment 2

RI Department of Human Services
Division of Elderly Affairs
Protective Services Unit
Statistics
FY 2015-7/1/14-6/30/15

Abuse Cases:

Total Cases Reported: 1,114

New Reports: 736

Re-Activated Reports: 378

Self-Neglect Cases:

Total Cases Reported: 1,015

New Reports: 639

Re-Activated Reports: 376

Early Intervention Cases:

Total Cases Reported: 268

New Reports: 250

Re-Activated Reports: 18

Number of Calls/Faxes Received to DEA Protective Services:

7,804

After-Hours Response Program for Elders in Crisis:

(period 1/1/15-12/31/15):

Total Calls Received: 487

Total Calls Sent to Protective Services for Investigation: 145