
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

March 13, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Kathy Bruni, Department of Social Services (DSS); Pam Giannini, DSS; Jennifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Siobhan Morgan, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Amy Porter, DSS; Kim Samaroo-Rodriguez, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Others Present: Deb Mignault, Commission on Aging; Margy Gerundo-Murkette, DSS; and Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2011 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates

Rebalancing Ratio for SFY 2011 – Barbara Parks Wolf presented the Rebalancing Ratios for SFY 2011 (see handout). Of the individuals receiving Medicaid long-term care services, 55 percent were served in the community and 45 percent received care in an institution in SFY 2011. This represents a one percent increase in the proportion of individuals on Medicaid receiving long-term care services in the community versus those on Medicaid receiving institutional care from the previous year, which is in keeping with recommendations in the 2010 Connecticut Long-Term Care Plan. With regard to expenditures, 42 percent of the long-term care expenditures for individuals enrolled in Medicaid were for services provided in the community and 58 percent were for institutional care, representing a 2 percent shift from SFY 2010.

2013 Long-Term Care Plan – B. Wolf presented a proposal for development of the 2013 Long-Term Care Plan (see handout). Members of the Planning Committee and Advisory Council will each be asked to identify their top three priority recommendations. The criteria for recommendations are that they should be critical to the success of the LTC system, and can be acted upon in the next three years. From these responses, a targeted list of priority recommendations will be identified to be addressed in the next three years (2013-2015). A preliminary list of priority recommendations will be developed in May after the legislative session for review at the June Planning Committee meeting.

Going forward, every year the Planning Committee, in consultation with the Advisory Council, will identify several strategic priorities to focus on for the year, based on the recommendations. The criteria for choosing priorities for the year include: 1) timeliness; 2) readiness for implementation or for change; 3) availability of funding; and 4) need for coordination with other entities and programs. The Planning Committee members will discuss these chosen priorities and explore how to address gaps and achieve progress.

The Planning Committee members agreed that the 2013 Plan will have the same basic format as previous plans, including data on long-term care and demand for services. The rebalancing goals of 75 percent of Medicaid long-term care clients receiving care in the community by 2025 will be retained from the previous Plan. This goal is in contrast to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rightsizing Plan goal for 2025 of 83 percent of Medicaid long-term care clients in the community, which factors in expectations for more aggressive shifts due to the MFP initiative.

Since the last Long-Term Care Plan, related plans have been produced that may be of interest to the Committee as they develop recommendations. These plans include the Rightsizing Plan, State Plan on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Centers Five Year Plan, the Money Follows the Person Workforce Development Plan, and the Department of Transportation Plan. Pam Giannini noted that the State Unit on Aging is currently developing a Business Plan that is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Committee members were requested to share information regarding other relevant state plans.

B. Wolf proposed that in the 2013 Plan the term “long-term care” be changed to “long-term supports and services” to be more in keeping with the philosophy of providing supports in a person centered context. Planning Committee members agreed with this change.

Legislative Update – D. Guttchen provided an update of long-term care related legislation by briefly reviewing a list of proposals in the Governor’s budget relating to long-term care and a list of bills that have been raised to date in the General Assembly (see handouts).

Website Update – B. Wolf reported on the use of Long-Term Care Services and Supports Website. In 2011, there were 29,319 visits to the website, 47 percent of which were by new users of the site.

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

Deborah Mignault of the Commission on Aging, sitting in for Julie Evans Starr, co-chair of the Long Term Care Advisory Council and Executive Director of the Commission on Aging, provided an update on Advisory Council activities. At the last Advisory Council meeting there was considerable discussion about the prolonged Medicaid eligibility determination process across the continuum of services, from nursing facility admission to community care. D. Mignault also

noted that the Advisory Council is looking forward to working with the Planning Committee on the next long-term care plan.

Presentations

Direct Care Workforce Strategic Plan

Deb Mignault of the Commission of Aging provided an overview of the Direct Care Workforce Strategic Plan (see handout). The Plan addresses the wide variety of direct care workers across the care continuum, from institutions to the community. Currently there are approximately 50,000 direct care workers in Connecticut and demand is expected to grow by 23 percent from 2008 to 2018. The Plan also acknowledges the work of the 711,000 unpaid caregivers who provided an estimated \$5.8 billion of care in 2009, double the amount Connecticut spent on Medicaid long-term care services. The Plan notes that both paid and unpaid caregivers have similar needs. Over the next four years, an additional 9,000 direct care workers will be needed in the state. The Plan states that “without a focused, coordinated approach, lack of caregivers will stall rebalancing efforts and Connecticut will fail to meet its goals.” The Governor’s proposed budget for SFY 2013 includes \$400,000 to help ensure the number of direct care workers is sufficient to meet the anticipated demand for services.

Kathy Bruni asked whether anything was proposed to address discrepancies between wages and benefits for Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs) and Personal Assistants. D. Mignault responded that wages is a concern and that they are trying to get a handle on the differences between institutional and community rates of pay.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Margy Gerundo-Murkette of the DSS Aging Services Division presented an update on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), more commonly known as Community Choices (see handout). Community Choices is not about replacing existing services, but rather building a more coordinated network of services. The goal, as stated in the Community Choices five-year plan is to have five fully functioning Community Choices programs, one in each region of the state. Currently, there is only funding for three regional Community Choices. All funding to date has been federal, and current federal funding does not allow for expansion to the two remaining sites. In this legislative session, Senate Bill 230 has been raised in the Human Services Committee that sets up a structure for Community Choices in statute – a small but significant step that also serves to meet federal requirements.

Other Business

B. Wolf reminded the group that the Status Report for the 2010 Long-Term Care Plan will be updated this Spring. In April, members will receive a request to provide updates of activities related to long-term care programs and initiatives.

Meeting Schedule for 2012

Tues., June 12th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

Tues., September 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

Tues., December 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.