
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

June 12, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, Department of Social Services (DSS); Jennifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Dennis King, Department of Transportation (DOT); Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy (OP&A); Fran Messina, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Siobhan Morgan, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Kim Samaroo-Rodriguez, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Others Present: Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2012 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates

Legislative Update – Barbara Parks Wolf provided an overview of the long-term care related bills passed into law in the 2012 legislative session. There were nine public acts and two special acts that address long-term care issues (see handout). A special legislative session, scheduled for June 12th, will be considering a budget implementer bill that may contain additional legislation related to long-term care. The handout will be updated and posted on the Planning Committee website (<http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=3072&q=482894>)

2010 Long-Term Care Plan Status Report – B. Wolf talked briefly about the annual Status Report that tracks the progress made in meeting the recommendations of the Long-Term Care Plan (see handout). This is the third and last Status Report for the 2010 Long-Term Care Plan. The report's 82 pages testify to the high level of activities addressing Plan recommendations over the last three years. Any additional long-term care related information coming out of the special legislative session will be added and Planning Committee members were invited to provide any missing information by June 29, 2012. A final version will be sent out to the Planning Committee in July.

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

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. Over the last few months, the Advisory Council has been having discussions about addressing the issue that people are not getting timely access to the Connecticut Home Care Program. Members of the Advisory Council met with Department of Social Services' Commissioner Bremby recently and suggested several remedies. Also discussed was the issue of provider rates and viability. D. Guttchen noted he believes that DSS is in the process of hiring approximately 60 new workers, some of whom will staff the DSS Alternate Care Unit run by Kathy Bruni. In addition, the State Medicaid program is working to streamline the process for investigating possible improper transfers during the five-year look-back period. This combination of more workers and streamlining some of the process should begin to address the eligibility determination backlog. Nancy Schaffer, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, added that there were also discussions regarding advocating for more education for consumers and their families to assist them with being more prepared as they apply for Medicaid eligibility.

In addition, the Advisory Council has been discussing the Medicaid/ Medicare Eligible initiative (MME) and how it can best relate and coordinate with the long-term care system and initiatives. Quincy Abbot noted that MME, Money Follows the Person (MFP) and other long-term care initiatives, if operated independently from one another, would be competing for funding and that it was important for all these initiatives to communicate and coordinate.

Siobhan Morgan informed the group that DDS has hired two people to liaison with DSS regional offices to facilitate the Medicaid eligibility and redetermination process for their clients. This addition has had a very positive impact in a short amount of time in terms of retaining individuals on the Medicaid program and has contributed to a better understanding between the DDS and DSS programs. One of the outstanding issues is that Medicaid eligibility must be re-determined every six months – an unnecessarily burdensome requirement for individuals whose status is unlikely to change.

Margy Gerundo-Murkette added that DSS' Aging Services Division is also working to coordinate with MME and MFP and making connections with the CHOICES program and Community Choices (Aging and Disability Resource Centers). However, staffing and capacity are issues. There are also challenges with working with a medical model of care. Commissioner Bremby is interested in hearing about all these connections and encourages input.

2013 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan

B. Wolf reviewed the list of the 33 unedited priority recommendations submitted by members of the Planning Committee and Advisory Council (see handout). These recommendations have varying levels of specificity and there is some duplication. The group was reminded of the criteria for these recommendations: 1) critical to the success of the long-term services and

supports system and 2) can be acted upon in the next three years. Also, the two rebalancing goals from previous plans will also be included.

The following themes were strongly represented in the suggested recommendations: provider rates, caregiver support, pursue 1915(i) State Plan amendment, reinvest cost savings, flexible regulatory environment, and preserve and expand housing.

The group agreed to the following:

- Endorse the recommendations of the Long-Term Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan without repeating the specific recommendations in this Plan.
- Recommend that the current initiatives such as MME, MFP, Rightsizing, and the Medicaid Balancing Incentive Program be well coordinated and complementary.
- Since the 2012 recommendations will be limited and targeted, provide a preface to the recommendations outlining all the essential components of a successful long-term care system. This will enable the plan to be useful in efforts addressing important issues not addressed in the recommendations.

D. Guttchen invited members of the Planning Committee and Advisory Council to think of what specific issues the Planning Committee could assist with that one State agency may have difficulty accomplishing on its own and that could benefit by the collective voice and efforts of the Planning Committee to help coordinate and promote in a very practical way. The group was also encouraged not to overlook including reference to initiatives that will be pursued in the next few years. Additional priority recommendations should be submitted to B. Wolf as soon as possible.

B. Wolf reviewed the timeline and discussed next steps (see handout). Based on today's discussion, the proposed priority recommendations will be revised and sent out for public comment with assistance from the Advisory Council. Members of the Planning Committee and Advisory Council are asked to share the recommendations with their constituencies to allow for broad public comment.

Other Business

B. Wolf reminded the group to provide any edits to the Long-Term Care Plan Status Report by June 29th. Also, members of the Planning Committee and Advisory Council were encouraged to submit any last minute priority recommendations as soon as possible.

Meeting Schedule for 2012

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 11:00 AM.