
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

June 11, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Tyler Nardine for Kathy Bruni, Department of Social Services (DSS); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Department on Aging (SDA); Jennifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Fran Messina, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Siobhan Morgan, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Others Present: Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2012 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

Legislative Update: Barbara Parks Wolf reviewed the long-term services and supports related legislation that passed in the 2013 legislative session and highlighted those bills that address specific recommendations in the 2013 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan (see hand-out). D. Guttchen also summarized other legislation that passed, including the Aging in Place, Alzheimer's study, and Assisted Living Pilot bills. Once information becomes available on the details of the budget bill, an updated legislative summary will be shared with the group.

2013 LTC Plan Status Report: B. Wolf presented a draft of the first annual status report on the 2013 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan and thanked those Planning Committee members who provided updates (see hand-out). Planning Committee members were invited to provide any missing information to the status report and a final version will be sent out to the group later in the summer.

Member Updates: D. Guttchen noted that as a result of the creation of the State Department on Aging (SDA) and Department of Housing (DOH), these two agencies will be represented on the Planning Committee. One of the two spots held by DSS is transferred to SDA, with Margy Gerundo-Murkette representing SDA. Also, as of July 1st, the membership held by the Department of Economic and Community Development will be replaced by DOH.

Strategic Priorities - Discussion

D. Guttchen led the discussion on strategic priorities (see hand-out). This current effort to identify issues that can be addressed administratively by the state agencies involved in long-term services and support relates back to the original intent of the Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Committee when they recommended the establishment of an interagency workgroup to facilitate cooperation and collaboration on long-term care issues. Ultimately, the PRI recommendation led to the creation of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee and Long-Term Care Advisory Council. Last December, the Planning Committee agreed upon the following criteria to use in identifying specific recommendations from the Long Term Services and Supports Plan that are feasible for the Planning Committee to advance and achieve results: 1) Timeliness; 2) Readiness for implementation or change; 3) Availability of funding; and 4) Need for coordination with other entities or programs.

Based on feedback from members of both the Planning Committee and Advisory Council, a list of potential strategic priorities were identified this spring. However, a number of recommendations that were suggested did not meet the criteria because they required additional funding.

Based on the discussion, two recommendations were identified:

1. Address the historical fragmentation of the Medicaid home and community-based waivers, which are associated with specific age and diagnostic eligibility criteria. [Comment - Combine the elder and PCA waivers into one waiver for people age 18 and over with physical disabilities]
 - o Explore the development of a broader 1915(i) State plan amendment to provide home and community-based supports based exclusively on functional limitations and financial need. [Note: DSS has a 1915i for people over 65 approved and in place]

Discussion: D. Guttchen explained that this recommendation got the most votes. As a first step, there is a need to explore what can be done under federal law. At least initially, this effort will not require funding. Siobhan Morgan suggested looking at how things are labeled, and the potential for aligning rates and streamlining processes between waivers.

2. Address isolation of all older adults and individuals with disabilities living in the community. Also, address the impact of isolation on elder abuse and exploitation.

Discussion: D. Guttchen noted this recommendation is very global and to do something practical the group would need to get more specific. S. Morgan suggested that good models currently exist in the community for connecting people. Both M. Gerundo-Murkette and Nancy Shaffer, LTC Ombudsman, raised the issue of phone abuse of elders and suggested that the Commissioner of Consumer Protection would be interested in exploring this issue. Other suggested linkages included "livable communities," Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and probate administrators.

D. Guttchen explained that a lead person in one of the State agencies will be identified for each of the recommendations to pull a group of State agency people together. The group will explore what is feasible to accomplish and then work with the Advisory Council to determine what role they want to play.

D. Guttchen asked if there were other recommendations that the group felt strongly about. Joelen Gates from the Legal Assistance Resource Center suggested the recommendation to address the community housing needs of nursing facility residents who are returning to the community because they no longer need this level of care but have lost their community residence. After some discussion it was determined that this recommendation did not meet criteria because it requires additional funding. Also, Fran Messina noted that the Rightsizing Request for Proposal that was released on June 4th provides \$10 million in capital funds to nursing facilities to address community housing needs.

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 the work of the Advisory Council. At the June Advisory Council meeting, Judith Stein, Executive Director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, spoke about the newly formed National Long-Term Care Commission, to which she has been appointed; the Medicare issue of “observation status;” and the Medicare “Improvement Standard.” Ms. Stein expressed her interest in speaking with the Advisory Council and Planning Committee about long-term care issues. Also, the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN) is sponsoring an end of the session wrap up on June 25th from 10:00 to noon at the Legislative Office Building.

Other Business

No other business was raised.

Meeting Schedule for 2013

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.