



# Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: November 18, 2004

Location: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield

## IN ATTENDANCE:

### Committee Members:

- . Darby Anderson, Regional Vice President – Addus HealthCare
- . Marion Hanks-Bell, RN – Gerontological Nursing
- . Paul Bennett – Central West Case Management Unit
- . Dennis Bozzi – Life Services Network
- . Pat Comstock – IL Health Care Association
- . Anne M. Cooper – IL Association of Nutrition Project Directors
- . James R. Donelan – Township Officials of Illinois
- . Flora Johnson – SEIU Local 880
- . Jonathan Lavin – Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- . Linda Leone – Prairieland Home Care
- . David Linderman – Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging
- . Joyce E. Lony – United Church of Christ
- . Phyllis Mitzen – citizen member over the age of 60
- . Cathy Weightman-Moore – Regional Ombudsman
- . Harriet O'Connor – Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care
- . Patricia O'Dea-Evans – Family Advisor
- . Ruth Rankin – Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital
- . Karen Ann Rose – Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehab
- . Steve K. Rothschild, M.D., Rush Univ. Medical Center
- . Hal Ruddick – SEIU Local #4
- . Brian Schwarberg – Alzheimer's Association
- . Courtney Snyder – Health and Disability Advocates
- . Myrtle Klauer – Illinois Council on Long-term care
- . Cynthia Y. Worsley – Kane County Extension, Univ. of Illinois
- . Ralph Yaniz (represented by Donna Ginther) - AARP

**State Agency Representatives:**

- . Jared Thornley – Governor’s Office
- . Enrique Unanue - Department of Public Health
- . Sinead Rice Madigan – Department of Financial and Professional Regulation - Division of Insurance
- . Susan Painer – Illinois Finance Authority
- . Joe Hylak-Reinholtz – Department of Public Aid
- . Jennifer Novak – Illinois Housing Development Authority

**OBSERVERS:**

- . Alisha Weber – SEIU Local 880
- . Jacqueline Rodriques – SEIU Local 880
- . Debbie Wills – IHCC
- . Kirk Riva – Life Services Network
- . Gilda Daigh – AARP
- . Frank Daigh – AARP
- . Michelle Gentry-Wiseman - ICCCU
- . Barb Ginder – Department of Public Aid
- . Linda Roehes – Department of Public Aid
- . Murriel Riedesil – AARP
- . Mary Patton – AARP
- . Carolyn Guthman – AARP
- . Scott Musser – AARP
- . Laura Prohov – Council for Jewish Elderly
- . Brigit Dyer-Reynolds - IRATF
- . Gwen Diehl – Department of Veterans Affairs
- . Nancy Nelson – Illinois Homecare Council
- . Ruth Flower – Illinois Council of Long-term care

**Department on Aging Staff:**

- . Charles D. Johnson, Director
- . Michael Gelder, Deputy Director
- . Michele Piel
- . Elton Arrindell
- . Rance Carpenter
- . Kim Cox
- . Betsy Creamer
- . Molly Spengler
- . Sally Petrone
- . Sara Davis
- . Barb Halstead

## SUMMARY

### **Welcome and Charge to the Committee:**

The meeting was opened by Director Johnson. The Committee is a great opportunity to discuss balancing long-term care in Illinois. He thanked the group for helping with the passage of the legislation, which had bi-partisan support and has been signed by the Governor.

The Older Adult Services Act is a comprehensive measure to restructure Illinois' system of older adult services by placing greater emphasis on home and community-based services, while recognizing the essential role for residential and 24-hour skilled care. The legislation was designed for a re-balancing of the two systems.

The Department views the legislation, which became P.A. 093-1031, as a great opportunity to help clients make intelligent choices about their care. The Act directs the Department on Aging to create a program that will help nursing facility residents who want, and are able, to return to their homes and communities. Staff is establishing the program design, and initial funding has been identified by the Department of Public Aid. There is currently \$250 million spent in Illinois on in-home services. But there is a need to discuss a broader array of services. Director Johnson encouraged the group to listen to each other and have respect for all opinions, as everyone is interested in good quality of service.

As the Director communicates with the Governor's Office and others interested in this process, he stated that there is no single thing, but a combination of things that need to occur in order to talk about re-balancing long-term care. No specific time-frames have been set, but something may happen in the Spring Session and a report on the initiative will be issued in January 2006.

### **Introduction of Members:**

Michael Gelder, the Department on Aging's Deputy Director, asked the members and other interested parties at the meeting to introduce themselves and give a brief summary of their activities and organizations.

### **Overview of P.A. 093-1031:**

Mr. Gelder noted that the group assembled for the meeting was truly awesome, and he was confident that the Committee would do their best effort to serve the seniors. He stated that this is a time of great change in Illinois and at the national level, with the new Medicare prescription drug coverage being implemented and the idea of Social Security Reform on the national agenda.

Mr. Gelder gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, summarizing current services and efforts for expansion related to the new legislation. He also provided a print-out of the presentation, which began with an overview of the Community Care Program created in 1979 by Public Act 81-202.

The core services are Homemaker, Adult Day Services and Case Management. Other services are provided on a demonstration basis in limited areas of the State. Emergency Home Response will be added as a core service by the end of Fiscal Year 2005.

An increase in the asset level from \$10,000 to \$12,500 for eligibility for Community Care services became effective on January 1, 2004. Effective July 1, 2002, applicants were also required to apply for

Medicaid. A standardized needs assessment tool is used by case managers to evaluate Community Care clients and for nursing home prescreens.

The Community Care Program is operated as a State Entitlement. *Benson vs. Blaser* was a class action suit which focused on the waiting list for Community Care services and in 1982 the U.S. District Court Order ruled persons on a waiting list were entitled to timely determination of eligibility and service.

The Department on Aging operates the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver for the Elderly through the Community Care Program. Illinois claims Federal reimbursement, at a 50% match rate, for Community Care spending on waiver-covered services, which are provided to Medicaid-eligible clients.

The CBRF Demonstration Project was implemented during FY 1998 and provides affordable assisted-living for Community Care clients.

Examples of Federal Older Americans Act services are Information and Referral, Case Management, Outreach, Transportation, Home-Delivered Meals, Chore/Housekeeper, Respite, Congregate Meals, Legal Assistance, Housing Assistance, Counseling, and Senior Centers. A Family Caregiver Program also provides many services to caregivers.

The newly-enacted Older Adult Services legislation requires the Department to provide transition services to eligible nursing home residents, through demonstrations in selected areas of the State. \$2 M is to be transferred to the Department on Aging from the Department of Public Aid, which will provide a wide array of one-time expenses, intense case management, and other support services. It will require a separate Waiver and the program will involve Area Agencies on Aging, Case Management Units, Ombudsman Programs, nursing homes and Centers for Independent Living.

Mr. Gelder outlined the mandates of the legislation for the Department on Aging and the Department of Public Aid.

There will be a public website that links to available services and resources. The Medicare Modernization Act awarded \$5.6 million, which can be used for the Web site and other purposes.

### **Small Group Discussions:**

Michele Piel, the Department on Aging's Manager of Planning, Research and Development, invited the group to break into working groups according to their interest. The groups included:

- Payment and Rate Mechanisms, Cost Reports – **Staff Person – Kim Cox.**
- Coordinated Point of Entry (Eligibility, Assessment, etc.) – **Staff Person – Molly Spengler.**
- Prioritization of Services (Barriers, Needs, etc.) – **Staff Person – Rance Carpenter.**
- Workforce and Caregivers (Retention, Support, etc.) – **Staff Person – Betsy Creamer.**

Michele Piel asked committee members to discuss the kinds of things that need to be accomplished for that particular topic, and to discuss others that need to be invited to help with the work involved.

After the group meetings, each group was asked for one thing that came out of their meeting.

- Workforce group – There is a lot of information available and there is no need to “re-invent the wheel.” The challenge will be to get a manageable task to work on and get recommendations in short order.

- Payment group – All agreed on the baseline at which to start.
- Prioritization of Services – There is a need to learn more about other committee members and what can be shared.
- Coordinated Point of Entry – The group discussed what services are provided by each group and public/private partnerships that can be placed in an inventory and readily available for information dissemination by trained individuals.

This Committee will involve many people to do the necessary work.

### **Next Steps:**

There was a discussion about the format for group meetings and the next full Committee meeting, which will be held in February 2005. Michele Piel will make contact with Committee members and interested parties in order to develop a formal schedule of meetings. A decision will be made on the location of the next meeting, either Springfield or Chicago, taking into consideration General Assembly Session days. It was felt that the smaller groups could meet by conference call, however, the full Committee meetings should be held in one location, at the same time of day for each meeting, on the date selected.

There should be some prioritization in the reporting of how the work presents itself and the players involved.

The Department will discuss, with the other State agencies involved, the best methods of communicating, and perhaps posting of the Minutes on the Web site. More information will be available at the February meeting.

The Public Act requires an Executive Committee be formed, and the Director will consider that requirement and discuss it in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**(These minutes were approved by the committee on February 28, 2005.)**