



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: March 10, 2008

Location: Illinois State Library, Springfield, Illinois

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

- Stephanie Altman – Health and Disability Advocates
- Darby Anderson – Addus HealthCare
- Carol Aronson – Shawnee Alliance for Seniors
- Pat Stacy Cohen – Illinois Adult Day Service Association
- Pat Comstock - Illinois Health Care Association
- Ann M. Cooper – Illinois Association of Nutrition Programs
- Thomas Cornwell, MD – HomeCare Physicians
- Frank Daigh – family caregiver
- Robyn Golden – Rush University Medical Center
- Joyce Gusewelle – Eden United Church of Christ
- Flora Johnson – family caregiver and SEIU Local 880
- Myrtle Klauer – Illinois Council on Long Term Care
- Jonathan Lavin –Age Options
- Phyllis Mitzen – citizen member over 60
- Nancy Nelson – Illinois HomeCare Council
- Patricia O’Dea-Evans – Northwest Community Hospital
- Margaret Rudnik - Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
- Maria Schmidt – Alzheimer’s Association
- Tim Thomas – SEIU Local #4
- Cathy Weightman-Moore – Catholic Charities Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Dave Vinkler - AARP
- Ancy Zacharia – HomeCare Physicians
- Nancy Zweibel, Ph.D. – The Retirement Research Foundation

Committee Members not in attendance:

- Dennis Bozzi – Life Services Network
- Jerry Crabtree – The Township Officials of Illinois
- Barbara B. Dunn – Community Health Improvement Center
- Michael Koronkowski – University of Illinois at Chicago
- Susan Real - East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
- Karen Schainker – Association of Illinois Senior Centers

Ex-officio – non voting Committee Members in attendance:

- Charles D. Johnson – Illinois Department on Aging
- Kelly Cunningham for Theresa Wyatt – Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

- William Bell – Illinois Department of Public Health
- Gail Hedges for Maureen Palmer – Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Tara Peele – Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Sally Petrone – Illinois Department on Aging, Long Term Care Ombudsman

Ex-officio – non voting Committee Members not in attendance:

- Yvonne Clearwater – Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- Teri Dederer – Illinois Department of Human Services
- Gwen Diehl – Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

OBSERVERS:

- Jeremy Schroeder – SEIU 880

Illinois Department on Aging:

- Michael Gelder
- Shelly Ebbert
- Jan Cichowlas
- Ross Grove
- Leann Dolan
- Robin Morgan
- Paul Bennett

SUMMARY

Director Johnson welcomed members to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Jonathan Lavin motioned to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Flora Johnson. The agenda was approved

Approval of Minutes

Jonathan Lavin moved to approve the minutes. Patricia O’Dea-Evans seconded. The minutes were approved.

A question was raised whether the minutes should reflect David Lindeman was recognized at the last meeting for his service on OASAC and Susan Real was named the chair of the Workforce/Caregiver workgroup. These items were found to be in the minutes.

Director Johnson introduced new members: Maria Schmidt, Robin Golden and Barbara Dunn.

Executive Committee Report

Flora Johnson reported the OASAC executive committee met February 5 for an extended meeting to develop benchmarks and to review the workgroup structure. The goal of the meeting was to respond to concerns from the full OASAC that our work, while important, is not fulfilling the potential of the law.

As background, the executive committee reviewed various documents, and heard from HFS and DOA staff about current efforts. The group identified eight draft measurements regarding transforming long term care, which will be presented for discussion at the next full OASAC meeting once the baseline information is complete.

The executive committee also discussed the structure and function of the five OASAC workgroups. There was some agreement that since the workgroups are organized around the mandates of the law, that we should

continue with the existing structure. Additional discussion about including a data or evaluation workgroup will be part of the next executive committee meeting.

The next executive committee meeting is March 24.

Deputy Gelder explained the executive committee discussed establishing some measurable benchmarks towards transformation of the long term care system and ability to measure and provide more depth to broader goals that we have been setting and determining whether we are meeting those and giving all of us on OASAC and workgroups the direction benchmarks can provide. The executive committee made a lot of progress at the last meeting and will finish the discussion at the next meeting. Deputy Gelder agreed to send something in writing to members.

State Agency Reports

Healthcare and Family Services — Kelly Cunningham distributed a handout on the long term care budget. She explained that although there was a decrease in the general revenue fund request for nursing facilities, the lower amount factored in bill paid during FY 2008 that won't need to be paid in FY 2009. HFS' budget request across all funds totals nearly \$17 billion, with the budget request for Medical programs administered by the Department totaling over 76%, or \$12.7 billion, of the budget request.

HFS administers all home and community based services waivers offered by the state. Nine waivers, serving over 70,000 individuals, are currently operational. Additionally, HFS continues to spearhead work on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program, particularly on the development of the Operational Protocol due later this spring. There has been a lot of interagency work, including weekly meetings, devoted to development of the Operational Protocol, as well as small group efforts to identify service design and transition issues among the four populations covered by the demonstration.

Illinois Department on Aging — Deputy Gelder reported on the Department's appropriation request which is also posted on our Website. Overall, the budget is a substantial increase over last year. Supporting the Governor's budget request will help us grow from this larger base in the future.

The House is planning more than a dozen appropriation hearings across the state. The entire list is on the Illinois General Assembly Website. An e mail to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Case Coordination Units (CCUs) and other aging network agencies was sent on Friday to notify of the hearings.

The Governor's proposed budget includes some increases mostly for the Community Care Program (CCP) reflecting the need for replacing the \$25 million taken out last year which will be paying bills to cover the \$25 million needed but we won't have the authority to spend until FY 09. There is also \$1.70/hr increase for homemakers and an additional \$1.33/hour for homemaker agencies that offer health insurance to employees effective July 1, as a result of HB 4144.

There is also money in the Governor's proposed budget request to fund \$2.00 per hour increase for Adult Day Service (ADS) that has been proposed for the last several years. More than 10 ADS have closed in the last four years. We hope the rate increase will encourage the remaining centers to stay open and increase case loads. The Department is also working with the Adult Day Service Association to improve marketing and outreach for ADS. It is an important service that provides socialization and help with medication.

The budget also reflects a \$1 million increase for elder abuse that will respond to cost pressures from requiring 24 hour coverage to self neglect. An increase is also proposed for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) to increase the ratio of LTCO to nursing home beds, assisted living and shared housing beds.

Funding for home delivered meals remains the same. \$2 million was added last year and is still in the budget this year.

Jonathan Lavin explained the Red Tape Cutters (RTC) program. The program is in Chicago and suburban Cook. It is supposed to be a statewide program but due to funding, has not been expanded statewide. Deputy Gelder added RTC was a legislative initiative that started several years ago but never ended. The Department has increased grants to the SHAP sites with help from Circuit Breaker funding to help clients with Medicare Part D and Illinois Cares Rx. SHAP is statewide.

Members discussed the RTC program and CPOE.

Illinois Housing Development Authority — Tara Peele reported IHDA continues to work with HFS on Money Follows the Person and is composing a statewide listing of affordable housing to make it easier for case managers to find clients housing. IHDA is working on a Request for Proposal and development of the computer system.

IHDA is also working on Qualified Housing Tax Credits. There are several incentives this year to encourage developers to invest in supportive housing developments. IHDA received thirty applications for projects. IHDA would like to get the AAAs and senior centers involved to assure people with disabilities and seniors have access to those units.

IHDA set several goals for supportive housing and is still developing a plan to achieve those goals. Supportive housing is permanent housing with access to services. It is targeted to individuals with needs and will be a nice compliment to MFP.

Rapid Reintegration — Deputy Gelder reported the Governor's office had convened DHS, Aging and HFS at the end of last year to develop some significant pilot projects and new approaches to ensure all disabled individuals are living in appropriate settings. Agencies working with the Governor's office and OMB have identified a couple of areas of the state to pursue. The Governor's office has committed to developing and enhancing the management information system at HFS and developing a mechanism to identify short stay admission. A lot of people enter nursing homes for a short stay and don't have the help they need to return to the community. This would help make that a priority. The second component would be an enhancement of reintegration services. A lot of clients will need more care than what our program will offer once they return to the community. The client should be able to return to the community if that is the best living arrangement. The Department is developing two pilot projects in conjunction with the three agencies.

Members discussed the program and made suggestions. Patricia O'Dea-Evans suggested that the hospital discharge planner be more involved. Hospital stays are now short; nursing homes are an extension of that treatment plan. Our programs have not adjusted to that. Medicare doesn't pay for IV antibiotics at home so in those cases, nursing home may be the only choice. Carol Aronson mentioned that in areas where CCUs have worked long term with discharge planners, those areas utilize interim requests more frequently and see a diversion of nursing home placement of 15-18%.

Thomas Cornwell added another barrier of returning to the community could be the mix of doctors a person sees when in the hospital, nursing home or in the community. If a patient needs therapy, it is often difficult to get the doctor to order that depending on placement. The nursing home doctor won't order therapy in the home because they will not be following them to the community.

Deputy Gelder was asked to provide information on statewide data for interims, initial and denial codes to show diversion rates for the next meeting.

Illinois Department of Public Health — Bill Bell reported he has moved to the acting deputy director position since Enrique's retirement. He has been involved with the nursing home conversion workgroup and plans to become an active member of OASAC.

Legislation recently passed to start licensing the home health industry. Rules are in process and will be filed with JCAR.

Federal CMS continues to delay initial certification of new agencies. IDPH has a list of home health agencies and clinics that want to be certified to provide services but they cannot be certified unless they get accreditation. The federal government said there is not enough money for this. IDPH has prioritized and determined they are unable to do initial certifications unless all other work gets done. IDPH is running into a backlog. IDPH is still trying to do licensure surveys for those licensed agencies but is unable to do initial certifications which forces organizations to go to an accrediting body which are also backed up and have a six month wait. Home health is the fastest growing operation within IDPH with over 600 licensed home health agencies which is an increase from the 200-300 a couple of years ago. Agencies can get licensed but not federally certified. Agencies are not able to get reimbursed for Medicare and Medicaid clients without federal certification. Approval has been given to those in extreme rural areas that were able to show a need. This will be the process through the rest of the fiscal year and there is no guarantee it will change in FY 09.

Identification of Consumers' Long-term Care Needs in Illinois

Paul Bennett reported on the Systems Change grant that was awarded in 2004 and subcontracted to UIC and recently received a 6 month no cost extension. The purpose is a rebalancing initiative similar to the OASAC process. There are several deliverables in the grant. The first report, Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities of Existing Network Providers Participating in the Nursing Home Transition Process, looked at the process in regards to nursing home pre screenings and placements. The second report, Funding and Service Recommendations for Transitioning Older Adults; an Examination of Illinois' Money Management Participants, was on funding and service recommendations where money management clients were reviewed. The third report looks at the service gaps as identified in focus groups. Structured questions were given to three groups; providers, consumers and caregivers.

For the third report, 240 people participated. A recruitment flier was used to gather the participants. The participants discussed access to services, thoughts on current services and gaps in current services. The report focuses on all services, not just government programs.

Paul distributed the report in hard copy to the members and reviewed the findings.

The report found the following:

- participants are looking for ease, clarity, quality, and the ability to trust information pertaining to accessing home and community based services,
- older adults desire to grow old at home and desire supportive services that will enable this to happen,
- the need to fund home and community based services,
- assurances are needed of quality home and community based services, and
- the need for expanded affordable housing options and communities supportive to growing old.

Another finding identified that in two areas of the state, participants identified a common and widely known resource for aging resources. Chicago participants identified 311 and Southern Illinois participants identified Shawnee Alliance for Seniors.

The next steps include workgroups looking at the needs and gaps identified in the report and tweaking present services. Programs should be more caregiver friendly including offering help in the evenings and weekends.

Workgroup Reports (One page summaries were handed out.)

Services Expansion — Carol Aronson reported the workgroup has action items to discuss with the full committee. The workgroup would like to be involved in the DON study and would like it to go further than studying the tool to also review the training tool for the DON and any vignettes that are used in order to have better consistency statewide when the tool is used. Deputy Gelder agreed that was a good recommendation and will talk to the consultants about the DON study.

In reviewing the recommendations, it is obvious that there are multiple issues concerning mental health. The workgroup feels there is a lack of mental health representation on the workgroup and the full committee. The workgroup would like to ask for a representative from the Division of Mental Health. Shelly Ebbert agreed to discuss that at the next interagency meeting.

Coordinated Point of Entry — Ross Grove reported the workgroup is meeting on May 2. The workgroup has a survey for organizations that will go out in the next couple of weeks.

Finance – Pat Comstock reported the workgroup has met twice since the last meeting. The workgroup has discussed reinventing itself and looking at what has been done so far. The co chairs will meet to discuss the direction of the workgroup. The workgroup discussed the Primer and necessary follow up to be sure it can serve as a resource to other workgroups and the legislature.

Nursing Home Conversion — Myrtle Klauer reported the workgroup has met twice since the last meeting. The workgroup's Health Facilities Planning Board (HFPB) survey will be distributed to nursing homes in the state. Bill Bell, IDPH, helped to develop the survey and it will be included in the mandatory survey that is required of all nursing homes. The results should provide statistics on service gaps and where to focus conversion efforts.

Workforce/Caregiver — Patricia O'Dea-Evans reported the workgroup has had two meetings since the last full committee meeting. The workgroup is planning the Working Caregiver Conference and working on goals for that meeting scheduled for December 10, 2008. The workgroup is hoping to get major employers for the state to attend. The workgroup has also had discussions and a presentation on limited English speaking seniors. The workgroup's next meeting is April 14.

Other Business

A small group continued discussions regarding the Department on Aging's budget over lunch and Cathy Weightman-Moore made the following motion regarding the Red Tape Cutters Program; "The Older Adult Services Advisory Committee notes that a program for accessing benefits in Cook County is a model for benefits assistance in the Coordinated Point of Entry. The Red Tape Cutters (Benefits Check Up program in Cook County) leverages over \$575 million per year for Cook County residents through individual assistance, advocacy, practical assistance, transportation, and group presentations. 100,000 people were served in 2007 with these programs. OASAC urges the General Assembly and Governor to sustain funding for the Red Tape Cutters/Benefits Check Up in 2009 and consider expanding the program statewide."

The committee discussed the motion and if the committee has advocated for a specific program before or budget issues.

Shelly Ebbert responded OASAC sent a statement to the legislators last year regarding the budget.

Phyllis Mitzen seconded motion.

Director Johnson clarified that the Department must support the Governor's budget. The individual members of the committee may lobby the Governor's office or legislature.

There were concerns that supporting this one program could jeopardize funding for other programs.

Members discussed the motion and what will happen if the committee approves it. It was suggested a letter be sent to the General Assembly and Governor's office, the language could be revised to reflect a statewide focus, others suggested a vote could be taken by e mail.

Deputy Gelder reminded members the vote is not as important as members attending the 19 budget hearings scheduled around the state.

The motion passed with six members voting yes, two opposing; Nancy Nelson and Frank Daigh. Six members abstained; Pat Comstock, Dave Vinkler, Tim Thomas, Jonathan Lavin, Myrtle Klauer and Joyce Gusewelle.

Announcements

Phyllis Mitzen announced HMPRG is holding a series on Long Term Care Reform on April 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

These minutes were approved on June 9, 2008.