



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2009, 11a.m. - 2p.m.

Location:

Illinois Department on Aging Conference Room, 160 N. LaSalle St., 7th floor, Chicago
Illinois Department of Transportation Auditorium, 2300 S Dirksen Parkway, Springfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

- Pat Ahern – Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care
- Darby Anderson – Addus Healthcare
- Carol Aronson – Shawnee Alliance for Seniors
- Melanie Chavin – Alzheimer’s Association of Greater IL
- Pat Comstock - Health Care Council of Illinois
- Thomas Cornwell – HomeCare Physicians
- Jan Costello – Illinois Home Care Association
- Frank Daigh – Caregiver
- Joyce Gusewelle – Parish Nurse
- Myrtle Klauer – Illinois Council on Long-Term Care
- Alexandra Lyons-Cooney for Jonathan Lavin – AgeOptions, Inc
- Dave Lowitzki, SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana
- Phyllis Mitzen – Citizen member over 60, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group
- Melissa O’Brien – Senior Services Center of Will County
- Eli Pick – Ballard Healthcare
- Tom Prohaska – University of Illinois at Chicago
- Susan Real – Caregiver, Eastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
- Cathy Weightman-Moore – Catholic Charities Rockford

Committee Members not in attendance:

- Stephanie Altman – Health and Disability Advocates
- Pat Cohen – Illinois Adult Day Service Association
- Jerry Crabtree – Township Officials of Illinois
- Barbara Dunn – Community Health Improvement Center
- Robyn Golden – Rush University Medical Center
- Flora Johnson – SEIU Health Care Illinois and Indiana
- Michael Koronkowski – UIC College of Pharmacy
- Patricia O’Dea-Evans – A Silver Connection
- Nancy Nelson – AARP
- Kirk Riva - Life Services Network
- Karen Schainker – Association of Illinois Senior Centers
- Ancy Zacharia – Nurse practitioner, Homecare Physicians

Ex-officio – non voting Committee Members in attendance:

- CHAIR: Charles Johnson – Director, Illinois Department on Aging
- William Bell – Illinois Department of Public Health

- Robert Kilbury - Illinois Department of Human Services
- Jennifer Chan – Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Yvonne Clearwater – Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, Senior Health Insurance Program
- Sally Petrone – Illinois Department on Aging, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Gail Hedges – Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

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

- Theresa Eagleson - Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Arthur Friedson, Illinois Finance Authority
- Gwen Diehl – Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

OBSERVERS:

- Wendy Thornton, Medicaid Matters
- Felice Eckhouse, Elderspace

Illinois Department on Aging:

- Sandra Alexander
- Janice Cichowlas
- John Eckert
- Robin Morgan
- Leann Dolan

SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Director Johnson welcomed members to the meeting.

Approve Minutes

Eli Pick motioned to approve minutes from the September 14 meeting. Cathy Weightman-Moore seconded. The minutes were approved.

Executive Committee Report

Darby Anderson reported an ad hoc group of the executive committee got together to discuss the process needed to complete the report due next year and the need to make a plan to rebalance long term care. Darby, Stephanie Altman, Susan Real, Nancy Nelson and Sandra Alexander and Jan Cichowlas from IDOA, met to discuss a possible retreat to be used as a planning session with the goal to develop a plan on who would participate, when, where and if a facilitated retreat is necessary. The group met a couple of weeks ago and decided Bob Mollica would be appropriate to facilitate a 2-3 day planning session in February or March 2010. He has knowledge of other states experiences and credibility as well as the ability to provide needed leadership. The group would like to extend invitations to the entire executive committee and then other participants will be invited as well as representatives from the state agencies.

Sandra Alexander added there may also be a series of phone calls during the legislative break to prepare for the retreat and the retreat would be 2 days instead of 3 to insure that most of the group could participate and devote the time needed.

Darby Anderson motioned to approve the recommendations of the executive committee. Dave Lowitzki seconded. All were in favor.

Dr. Cornwell informed members he had recently made his 25,000th house call. His program is unique but not on the radar screen of the general assembly. Evidence shows when nurse practitioners make weekly house calls in the month after heart failure, it reduces hospitalization by half. These financial incentives should be aligned with the health care system and Medicare and could solve a lot of what is being discussed. There is a \$19 million state program to fix what the healthcare system is not doing right.

Sandra Alexander also reported Stephanie Altman can provide CDs to members with the reports the Finance Workgroup produced if anyone is interested.

Membership

Director Johnson reported we continue to have vacancies in the areas of county and municipality. Terms expired for several members. All were invited to serve another three year term. The Department has not heard back from everyone yet.

Department Updates

Illinois Department of Public Health - Bill Bell reported DPH continues to work on the budget and is involved in the Senate Public Health Committee, two hearings in Chicago on safety issues and the Governor's Task Force on Long Term Care. Three hearings have been held so far, more will be scheduled. The Governor's Task Force Final Report is due January 31, 2010.

Director Johnson reported the task force Michael Gelder is chairing is scheduled for January 31. He is designated to have legislative proposals ready at that time. Comments can be submitted directly to the task force at www.nursinghomesafety.illinois.gov.

Illinois Housing Development Authority – Jennifer Chan reported Tara Peele has moved on to another position in IHDA and a new interagency liaison will be starting in another couple of weeks.

Illinoishousingsearch.org has 2300 properties listed with 800 landlords. Most are in Chicago. IHDA continues to work on increasing downstate listings. Tara Peele did a demonstration for Area Agencies on Aging and the Rural Rental Housing Association in Illinois in an effort to provide outreach to downstate.

IHDA continues to work on Qualified Allocation Plan for Tax Credits and is working on a geographic set asides and considering a preliminary application period. Comments are due by November 16. IHDA is also working on the 2010 Comprehensive Housing Plan.

Illinois Department of Human Services – Rob Kilbury reported a new secretary, Michelle Sadler, has been appointed and replaces Carol Adams. IDHS is beginning to work on the FY 11 budget.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity – Gail Hedges, no report.

Illinois Department on Aging – Sandra Alexander reported the Department received an award from the Administration on Aging for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). The Department will be working with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Planning and Service Areas (PSA) 1, 2, 5, 8 and 13 on this three year project. If more funding becomes available PSAs 3 and 4 will be added. The Department is charged with developing a five year state plan to include all PSAs. The Department received \$200,000 from a respite services grant for three years to expand respite statewide to all ages.

The Veterans Consumer Direction project continues to move forward. By January 1, we expect to be working with the VA in areas 2, 12, 13 and then 5, 4, 7, and 10 and plan to go statewide eventually.

Director Johnson reported the American Society on Aging is holding their annual meeting in Chicago March 15-19. Members were encouraged to attend. Scholarships are available. The conference will be held in Chicago every third year. This is an economic benefit to the state. Sponsors are needed.

Nursing Home Task Force – Director Johnson encouraged members to be aware of the task force and participate if possible. Recently a presentation was held for directors of long term care. Several things are on the horizon that are encouraging for technology and use in our program including laptops and printers that can be used by case managers as well as items that include bar codes, date stamps and a variety of other technology. There is an interest in working with Motorola as the technology czar. We

will be working with all the state agencies to use similar products so we are compatible. There are currently no contracts for this. Medicaid will pay for a majority of this if we present it in a consistent way.

Darby Anderson reported Addus has the capability to track homecare workers with GPS cell phones. It is possible to have information available at the observation point.

Carol Aronson added Shawnee is ready to begin electronic records and have clients sign documents electronically. The rules do not allow the CCUs to go ahead with this and require a paper signature.

Reports and Discussion

OASAC Report to the General Assembly – Sandra Alexander reported the draft report was distributed to members prior to the meeting. The Department is looking for further discussion or a motion to approve. Thomas Cornwell moved to approve the OASAC report. Cathy Weightman-Moore seconded. All were in favor.

Project 2020 – Director Johnson reported this is a project of the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). There is a lot of legislative support. Older Americans Act funding has been stable for a long time.

Susan Real also reported Project 2020 truly mirrors what we are trying to accomplish through the OASAC and it should be a part of the retreat. The third point builds upon a comprehensive care system and mirrors what Illinois is doing with nursing home diversion and also talks about gap filling, FSS and coordinating non traditional and informal services in the care plan. Those things continue to ring true throughout the federal level and what we are trying to accomplish in CCC throughout the state.

Workgroup Reports

Phyllis Mitzen moved to The Nursing Home Bed Reduction and Resource Conversion Program: Expanding Health Care Service Options to Benefit Illinois Seniors; Overview Presented by the Conversion Subcommittee of the Older Adult Services Advisory Committee, September 2009. Eli Pick seconded. All were in favor.

Workforce/Caregiver – Susan Real reported there will be a working caregiver track at the Alzheimer's Conference in Springfield next week. The workgroup is also working with the Department on the respite act.

Susan Real reported attending the N4A leadership training in Annapolis, Maryland. The vision of N4A in establishing this leadership institute is recognizing the aging network and the work of many of the longtime directors that are retiring and a way to cultivate and identify leaders within the field in an effort to better serve seniors. This was a three day institute that was attended by 25 AAA staffers, primarily in management, across the nation. Doug Crew was the facilitator and has worked with fortune 500 companies. He utilized the behavioral assessment called the DISK. This event happens each year and they are always looking for new attendees within the AAA network.

Services Expansion – Carol Aronson reported the Services workgroup has multiple subgroups and has developed a medication management white paper. The workgroup continues to work on several other issues as well including a white paper on the coordination of health care services. A draft will be presented at the next Services workgroup. The workgroup is also working on issues related to caregiving, nutrition and the economic security initiative.

Carol Aronson moved to approve the white paper on medication management. Myrtle Klauer seconded. All were in favor.

Phyllis Mitzen reported on a study to ensure the DON tool is accurate in determining participants need. IDOA did a study on DON scores, level of need and service cost maximum which are used to determine service plans. Recommendations need to include all needed changes to the service cost maximum schedule. Key components of the tool are part A which measures activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, part B which measures unmet needs and Part C which determines a level of cognitive impairment as measured by the MMSE.

Service Cost Maximums (SCM) differs for each type of services in the Community Care Program (CCP) through IDOA and in the home services program through the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Far more are included in the DRS home services program than in CCP.

In 1989 a study created changes and the MMSE was inserted to assess dementia. The 1992 budget crisis forced agencies to trim expenditures and DORS closed intake of new cases. IDOA remained open to intake but reduced SCM for clients with lower level DON scores by 50%. A court case forced DRS to reopen intake. They then did not reduce SCM. These decisions continue to be reflected today.

The final report of the *Determination of Need, Service Cost Maximum Study (DON/SCM Study)* was submitted to the Illinois Department on Aging in July, 2009. The original study was designed to respond to three core questions critical to defining a rationale for changing the current Service Cost Max methodology to achieve an expanded and more flexible service package for aging services in Illinois. The final report was able to address questions about how the addition of medication management, personal care/assistance and consumer direction might affect service utilization and cost and provided an analysis of how Illinois' approach to determining eligibility and need and service allocation compares to best practices in other states. See the final report for its findings and recommendations.

However, the research team did not have access to the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) client files. Subsequent to submission of the report, the research team received a DRS client file enabling it to address the question of why the DON-based SCM schedule differs from the elderly and disabled populations and to what extent these differences can be explained by differences in the characteristics of the populations served.

The researchers were looking for any justification for differences in the SCM for the two programs and went to the effort to systematically go through all of the dimensions critical to understanding this. The researchers found no justification. The bottom line is the SCM for DRS participants were considerably higher than for the CCP, same age counterparts. The CCP clients had a slightly higher mean age. DRS clients received 58% more hours per week than CCP clients. Pat Comstock inquired about the calculation of the nursing home cost that was used in the report. She cautioned against distributing the report until we can be sure the numbers are correct.

Tom Prohaska explained the study does not ask why SCM were assigned, just that they were. There are a lot of unknowns and they bring up other questions. Researchers assumed people are trained similarly with the same standardized testing. Additional research will be conducted concerning the relationship of informal care with or without cognitive impairment. We want to understand that critical tipping point for older adults who need services. Another question that has been raised asks if there is a difference between a person who becomes frail as compared to those that aged with a disability. This was not a factor for this study.

Tom Prohaska discussed the analysis is broken down by PSA. It does show some regions with higher mean DON scores than others. If you assume impairment is evenly distributed across the state, you would wonder about this disparity and there could be different reasons to explain it. In this study, these findings cannot be interpreted but only presented.

Phyllis Mitzen added this is the first study in many years. It is fairly narrow and allows the department to utilize actual data to make decisions.

Director Johnson reported the Department continues to have discussions with Governor's office and think there will be changes. They may not be exactly what has been recommended but the Department continues to work on the proposals. Several court cases are pending which may necessitate changes in program structure. Today, we have to follow the rules that are in place today with the money we have.

Announcements/Issues

Eli Pick thanked those members that responded to the survey on nursing homes. The survey had 19 responses.

Director Johnson inquired if there was a need to meet in December at the Governor's Conference on Aging in Chicago. The principle reason for that meeting was to finalize the OASAC report which has been finalized. Members agreed a meeting in December is not necessary.

Proposed meeting dates for the full committee and executive committee have been drafted and distributed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.