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## Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Services Work Group

Date: July 21, 2008

Attending: Carol Aronson (Co-Chair), Paul Bennett, Eileen Brewer, Jan Cichowlas, Pat Stacy Cohen, Betsy Creamer, Diane Drew, Joyce Gusewelle, Carol Lentz Headley, James Merrill, Robin Morgan, Margaret Niederer, Mary Patton, Sally Petrone, Karen Schainker, Dave Vinkler (Co-Chair), and Debbie Weber.

Guests: Martha Holstein (HMPRG), Patrick McConnell (AARP intern), and Jennifer LaFever (ACM care)

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### Discussion Summary:

- Introductions and approval of the June meeting minutes.
- Robin Morgan announced that the Nutrition Summit report was emailed out to members.
- Dave Vinkler reported that the Governor vetoed a significant part of the State budget. All but \$19 million in Community Care Program (CCP) increases were cut. The rate increase for homemakers will not be cut. The \$25 million in carryover and growth and the \$5 million for the Adult Day Service (ADS) increase were cut. The budget office is not commenting on the budget at this time. It was also mentioned that the House did not achieve an override on the Aging budget. The fall session will look at the budget again. We would need to go for a supplemental at that time to get this funding back. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) increases were also cut. The ANE cuts take them back to 2007 funding levels. The Alliance will be coming together soon to discuss lobbying efforts for the fall. Dave cautioned members that you have to understand the cuts before you can lobby for budget changes. Members can find the official budget on the Comptroller's website.
- Identification of priority recommendations for the next Older Adult Services Act Committee (OASAC) report – the members discussed the need to narrow the focus of the report/recommendations. Dave stated that 3 recommendations for legislative actions would be plenty. Substantial language and dollar amounts should both be included in legislative recommendation. The need to keep the recommendations from the previous year's reports so we don't lose the work from previous committee members was discussed. Accomplishments for all the work groups are reported elsewhere in the report so we don't need to include those in the Services section. Jan Cichowlas mentioned the OASAC benchmarks that are being developed for the full OASAC committee. The co-chairs stated that they have been reviewing and participating in the meetings where the benchmarks are being discussed. They do not believe that the benchmarks are at cross purposes with the Services groups' goals and will not change the recommendations that we make today. Members stated that you don't want the benchmarks to drive the planning process. The planning process should drive the benchmarks. The members voted to separate out the recommendations into legislative and State agency recommendations. Margaret Niederer stated that Services should lay the framework of what we want to do to rebalance long-term care.

- Martha Holstein provided the group with a recommendation to the Services committee on better coordination of health and social services of long-term care. This builds upon what we already do; it takes it to the next step. The goal of the recommendation is to build upon the existing community care system so that it deepens its commitment to and strengthens its ability to coordinate the health and the social service needs of its clients.
- Individual recommendations were made by the group and then voted on. The top 4 recommendations were agreed by the group to be worked on for the next meeting. Originally the group identified 13 recommendations that were voted on. They include: the goal from the recommendation stated above that Martha Holstein presented; Medication Management/Audit; Nutrition Services Plan; Senior Centers, Transportation Services, Cost of Doing Business Increases, Mental Health, Ombudsman, Expand Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-approved options available under the waiver, Caring for the Caregiver (to include respite, outgoing costs, special needs for dementia clients, support groups, ADS expansions, and paid caregiving); Elder Economics Security Initiative; restoration of lost funds during veto session; and Adult Day Services.
- Voting resulted in the top 4 recommendations being assigned to sub-committees to work on. They are
  1. Goal from the presentation listed above presented by Martha Holstein on building upon the existing system (see goal above). This sub-group will be arranged by Margaret Neiderer.
  2. Caring for the Caregiver – arranged by Paul Bennett and Martha Holstein.
  3. Nutrition Services Plan – arranged by Debbie Weber.
  4. Elder Economics Security Initiative – arranged by Martha Holstein.
- Robin Morgan will send out an e-mail to all members listing the 4 workgroups and the member in charge of arranging the conference call workgroup. Workgroups should arrange for a conference call through AARP by contacting Dave Vinkler once a date has been selected. Recommendations from each sub group need to be submitted to the Department on Aging for forwarding to all members the week before the August meeting so that all members have time to review and be prepared to discuss at the meeting.
- The members wanted it documented that the committee will do a larger document in addition to the 2009 report. All items are important and we do not want to lose sight of them. We will include all recommendations in this document, and we will create a smaller more focused message for the 2009 report.

**Next Steps:**

- Next meeting will review the priorities and recommendations from the sub-groups for the next report.
- Members that volunteered to arrange the 4 sub-group recommendations will arrange conference calls to develop the recommendations prior to the next meeting. Recommendations will be sent to Robin Morgan the week before the August meeting so that members have time to review them.
- The April meeting minutes will be posted on the Department's website. The website address is [www.state.il.us/aging/1athome/oasa/wg-se.htm](http://www.state.il.us/aging/1athome/oasa/wg-se.htm).

**Meeting Schedule:**

This committee meets on the third Monday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the AARP office in Springfield. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2008.

Future meeting dates are:

- September, 15, 2008
- October 20, 2008
- November 17, 2008