



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Services Work Group

Date: September 15, 2008

Attending: Carol Aronson (Co-Chair), Paul Bennett, Eileen Brewer, Jan Cichowlas, Pat Stacy Cohen, Kelly Cunningham, Joyce Gusewelle, Carol Lentz Headley, Julie Hess, James Merrill, Phyllis Mitzen, Robin Morgan (Department Staff), Margaret Niederer, Amy Paschedag, Mary Patton, Karen Schainker, Maria Schmidt, Dave Vinkler (Co-Chair), and Debbie Weber.

Guests: Shelly Ebbert (IDOA), Sue Hughes (UIC) and Tom Prohaska (UIC)

Discussion Summary:

- Introductions and approval of the August meeting minutes.
- DON Study Presentation – Shelly Ebbert, Phyllis Mitzen, Sue Hughes and Tom Prohaska presented an outline of the DON study that is occurring as required by Public Act 095-0565 (HB652) where the department was mandated to do a DON Study with a report due by Jan. 2009. The Department has 2 outside parties, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG), working on the evaluation of the DON. Shelly stated that due to delays in the legislative process last spring, the effective date of this legislation wasn't until June 30, 2008. No money came along with the law either. Funding was found through the Nursing home diversion modernization grant through AoA. This grant looks at targeting services. Tom and Sue both have a background with the prior DON study that occurred. Shelly discussed the objectives of the study and what we hope to answer and she also pointed out what the study was not going to be looking at. The core areas they will be looking at is:
 - Why do DON based Service cost maximums schedules differ for elderly and disabled?
 - How will the addition of personal care/assistance and other services impact service utilization and cost? (ie, FSS, medication management – will clients lose homemaker hours in order to receive these services? Is the service necessary? Or just convenient?
 - How does Illinois' approach to determining eligibility and allocating service dollars compare to other states? Illinois is unique because we don't have a waiting list for services and we are not just a Medicaid funded service. And we have a huge program that requires large amounts of State GRF funds. As our program grows, it continues to be harder and harder to fund using state GRF funds.

The study will not look at:

- Validity of the DON tool – the tool was developed in 1982 and reviewed in 1989. We won't be looking at the minimum score of 29 since that would require looking at nursing homes also. Carol asked the presenters if they would be looking at whether or not the tool is being utilized the way it was originally intended to be used. There have been department policy changes and training changes throughout the years that have affect how case managers are told to score the DON. The reviewers will be contacting Training staff at the Department to follow up on this.

- Whether the elements of the DON tool are the “right” elements, or if other measures may provide more accurate assessments.
- Comparison of DON tool with other tools (ie, MDS-HC)

This study on the DON will be including both the DON part A and B and the MMSE. Tom Prohaska was one of the people initially that researched and developed the DON. The purpose was to have a validated instrument that evaluated people receiving service in the home and in the nursing homes. Tom requests that if members know of people with key pieces of information that is pertinent to the research then he would like this information to be sent to him by contacting Jan Cichowlas. Phyllis reported that they have had/or will be having discussions with Ohio, Arizona, Washington, Wisconsin and Vermont to interview them for best practices. They have also contacted Bob Mollica at a LTC policy group in Maine to discuss the issues outlined in this study. Members came up with additional questions for Phyllis to mention when talking to the states. Additional questions included: How does the side B unmet care affect the POC? Is their states threshold for NH admission the same as the threshold for HCBS? Are these thresholds comparable to the 29 DON that Illinois uses?

The group plans to bring the findings from these interviews to the next Services meeting so members can help with recommendations. There have been many changes throughout the years that need to be reflected in the DON tool. For example, case managers used to not score for anything the caregivers did. Now, we know that supporting the caregiver is a necessity and it must be addressed in the POC and through a B side score. There will be time at the October meeting to discuss the progress from the interviews and Shelly’s work. A full report on the DON study will not occur until November’s meeting.

- OASAC review report recommendations: Carol and Dave reported that recommendations were submitted to the Department. Members worked on the rationale. The next year will be dedicated to staying focused on these objectives and what we can do to move these forward. Carol indicated that each workgroup will continue to develop a “white” paper on program design and funding estimates. The white papers will need to include definitions.
- Members made changes to the existing rationale statements from the workgroups reports. Debbie will go back an work on developing a rationale for the Nutrition group and will have it to the committee prior to the October 10th deadline.

Next Steps:

- Rationales will be sent out to all members when it is sent to the Department. To keep the momentum going, all members are asked to commit to at least 1 workgroup. Robin will send out the list of contacts for the workgroups.
- The next meeting will be focused on allowing the workgroups time to meet and work on their white papers. Members will also hear an update on the work on the DON study. A full DON study report will be given at the November meeting and the December meeting has been canceled due to the holidays.
- Members voted to postpone the ECCO/MCCP demonstration project presentations until next spring so that we can devote the next few meetings to developing the white papers for each recommendation prior to the start of the legislative session.
- The July meeting minutes will be posted on the Department’s website. The website address is 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. – 3:00 p.m. at the AARP office in Springfield. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2008. Future meeting dates are:

- November 17, 2008
- December meeting has been canceled