



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Workforce and Caregiver Work Group

Date: July 9, 2007, conference call

Attending: Darby Anderson, Leann Dolan, Elizabeth Essex, Jonathan Lackland, David Lindeman (Chair), Scott Musser, Jeremy Schroeder and Cathi Sipes.

Discussion Summary:

- The workgroup has been asked to review the progress on the 2007 goals and prepare 2008 goals for next months meeting. The OASAC goal is to present the 2008 report to the General Assembly by the beginning of the year. David will send out last years goals for members to review.
- David reported that he met with Charles Johnson, Michael Gelder and Shelly Ebbert to discuss goals for next year. It was suggested that the workgroup consider a goal that will help the state put an emphasis on training for homemakers. A possible idea is to put together a plan that will lead to more training, career ladder opportunities, incentives to take training and possibly greater wages. This goal could include everything from reviewing training for homemakers and putting a compendium together and look at how to select from those programs, prioritize, and make recommendations for longer term goals on how to make training available and then how to provide benefits for homemakers going through the training. It was agreed that a new goal of training for homemakers will be added to the 2008 goals.
- A discussion of homemaker wages was conducted. It was mentioned that with the low homemaker reimbursement wage, the increase in minimum wage, and the large turnover of workers funding additional training opportunities is a challenge. The committee had previously not included this goal in its recommendations. Jeremy stated that there was legislation that planned to increase the reimbursement rate in accordance with the minimum wage increase. He will review the goal from last year and give feedback on how to word a new goal for 2008. It was agreed that the issue of wages for homemakers should be addressed in the committee's 2008 goals.
- Darby reported that Addus has been working with Local 880 in development of additional training component which could be attractive to individuals entering the workforce. This could include utilizing time spent in in-service training towards GEDs, English as a second language and computer training. The training is unrelated to delivery of care but could be used as incentive and part of career ladder. This improves the individual providing care, not the care itself.
- David suggested that the Committee reinforce its 2007 goals in the recommendations for 2008 OASAC goals.
- David reported that there may be a staff person joining IDOA that will be able to help subcommittees work on their goals and activities.
- Family Caregiving – David reported that the Department told him there will be resources to pay for an addendum to the state DPH caregiving survey that will collect information on family caregivers. Other states have used the survey to develop a benchmark/baseline for family caregiver data. Data will be collected by the state. This survey could address one of the workgroups goals.

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- Funding for Caregivers – David reported that we don't know where this stands. It is assumed that it is tied up in the budget process. It was suggested that the primary goal that we want to maintain is respite for family caregivers.

Next Steps:

- David will put the basic framework in for new goals and ask for responses by end of next week. Committee members will add background sentences.
- The Department is attempting to get staff to help the Workforce/Caregiver address its goals.
- David and Elisabeth will look at the benchmarking statewide DPH dataset and will check with IDOA for an update on timeframes.
- The group will work on the top priority of reviewing goals and at next months call will discuss 2008 goals and send its recommendations to IDOA for inclusion with the aggregate OASAC 2008 goals.

Meeting Schedule:

This committee meets via conference call on the 2nd Monday of the month from 11:00 am - Noon.

Future meeting dates are:

- August 13
- September 10 (prior to the full OASAC meeting – Time to be announced)
- October 8 (This meeting falls on a State Holiday (Columbus Day) and may need to be rescheduled.)
- November 12 (This meeting falls on a State Holiday (Veterans Day Observed) and may need to be rescheduled.)