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## Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

# Workforce and Caregiver Work Group

Date: September 8, 2008 (SPECIAL MEETING), 10 – 11 a.m. conference call  
Attending: Susan Real, Frank Daigh, Jeremy Schroeder, Sarah Stein, Patricia O’Dea-Evans and Benita Johnson. No Department on Aging staff attended.

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Susan Real stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to review the 2008 Older Adult Services Act Committee (OASAC) Objectives and formulate 2009 OASAC Priority Objectives for the Workforce and Family Caregiver Workgroup.

### **Workforce Priority Objectives Discussion pertaining to 2009 Recommendations.**

It was the consensus of the workgroup to combine 2008 Workforce Priority Objectives #1 and #3 into one priority objective for 2009. It was the consensus of the workgroup to expand a new Workforce Priority Objective to expand upon the need for a certificate/accreditation training program for long-term care workers. It was also the consensus of the workgroup to maintain the remainder of the Workforce priority objectives from 2008 for 2009.

### **2009 Workforce Priority Objectives Recommendations**

*Objective 1.* Advocate for the continued support of rate increases for a living wage for all long-term care and community-based care workers in Illinois to ensure wages are at least the same amount above minimum wage as they were before the July 1, 2008 minimum wage increase and provide funding in all programs to support these increases through SFY 2011.

*Objective 2.* Continue to support legislation and budget increases targeted at increasing health insurance for all long-term care and community-based workers.

*Objective 3.* Continue to support the use of evidenced-based career ladder/lattice programs as well as identify new opportunities for developing programs for frontline workers.

*Objective 4.* Support introduction of pilot career pathway program.

*Objective 5.* Recommend the development of a Training Certificate/Accreditation Program for all long-term care and community-based workers.

*Objective 6.* Monitor the progress of private duty nursing licensing under the Home Health, Home Services, Home Nursing Licensing Act.

*Objective 7.* Continue to develop a compendium of information regarding training programs for Illinois home care workers.

**Caregiver Priority Objectives Discussion pertaining 2009 Recommendations.**

It was discussed that all priorities need to be maintained for 2009; however, with some updates.

**2009 Caregiver Priority Objectives Recommendations**

*Objective 1.* Support an increase in the general revenue funds for services that would benefit family caregivers with specific emphasis on respite care, in the FY 2009 - FY 2010 Illinois Department on Aging budget.

*Objective 2.* Continue the work of the December Working Caregiver Event, **Supporting Caregiver Employees While Increasing Profitability**, by implementing conference results in policy recommendations. In addition, recommend the replication of such an event in downstate Illinois.

*Objective 3.* Compile and review results of current Caregiver Training Programs in Illinois and other states. Recommend replication of such Caregiver Training Programs in other parts of Illinois.

**Follow-up**

Susan Real reported that the recommended 2009 Priority Objectives will be emailed to the Workforce/Caregiver workgroup members for the review and final sign-off.

**Approved Prior Meeting Minutes**

It was the consensus of the workgroup to approve meeting minutes from May 12, 2008, and July 14, 2008. Such minutes were attached the email meeting notice for the special September 8, 2008, conference call.

**Next Meeting**

Sarah Stein pointed out that the next Workforce/Caregiver Conference Call is scheduled on the Columbus Day holiday (October 13, 2008). It was the consensus of the group to change the date of the October conference call to October 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.