

The Community Care Program Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:00 am
WebEx Conference Call (due to COVID-19)

Members Present on the Phone: Laura Altenbaumer, Active Day; Sherry Hamlin, Voyage Senior Living; Mary Callahan, AMAC; Theresa Collins, IACCPHP; Cary Crawford, Chicago Commons; Ella Grays, Gareda, LLC; Shana Holmes, Southeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Inc; Marsha Nelson, Shawnee Health Service; Louie Prado, Home Health Security Services; Robert Thieman, IADSA;; Natasha Belli, DuPage County Senior Services; Lori Hendren, AARP Illinois; LaShun James, Addus Homecare – Chicago Branch; Marta Pereyra, CLESE; Tammy Tenton, Premier Home Health Care Services, Inc; Peter Valessares, Hellenic Foundation; Megan Gallegos, Healthcom Inc/VRI; Mary Hemp, Community Care Adult Day Services, Inc; Susan Simmons, Help at Home, Inc/Oxford Healthcare; Dary Mien, Chinese Mutual Aid Association; Robert Spaulding, Healthcare Plus Senior Care; William Wheeler, ICCCU; Richard Juarez, Lawndale Christian Health Center; Beth Menz, SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana; Sandra Pastore, Mindful Innovation Consulting; Stephanie Garrigan, Philips Lifeline;

Members not Present at this meeting: Amy Nathan, North Shore Senior Center; Kevin Cosgrave, Guardian Medical Monitoring; Lori Elliott, Williamson County Programs on Aging; Joanne Glenn, Comprehensive Quality Care Inc Foundation; Jill Ohnesorge, Bond County Senior Citizens Center; Lori Pence, Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Mikal Sutton, BlueCross/BlueShield of Illinois; Brycie Kochuyt, Alternative (for the Older Adult);

Guests Present on Phone: ; Jackie Bowers, OSF Senior World; Cynthia Cunningham, Forever Young Center; Marsha Johnson, CCSI – CCU; Rebecca Wheat, Adult Day Service; Gus Saberbein, Help at Home; Darren Buatti, Critical Signal Technologies/Best Buy; Nancy Berry, St. John’s Community Care; Charles Vincent; P. Cash, Hellenic Foundation; Angela Bailey; Tom Gonzalez; Topaz Gunderson-Schweska; Kim Send; David Olsen; Benita Johnson; Abby Larson; Courtney Heiton; HuiHui Hawkins; Tatiana Sanjines; Elena Florea; Tania Schwer; Winnie Lam; Bill Hurtado;

Illinois Department on Aging Staff on the Phone: Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director; Barbara McConnell; Russ Kemple; Samantha Brill; Sue DeBoer; Sarah Harris; Chrystal Wofford; Mike Dropka; Becky Dragoo; Selma D’Souza, Chief of Staff; Amber Bolden; Sandy Leith; Rhonda Armstead; John Eckert; Chuck Vincent, DoIT Web Services; Paula Basta, Director; Mike Berkes; Sally Lisnek;

Agenda Items

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Director Paula Basta. Attendees were asked to email Barb McConnell so that they may be counted as attending the meeting.

Public Comments: None

Director Paula Basta thanked all on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

COVID-19

Lora McCurdy: PPE is critical. Continue sharing amongst yourselves information. IDoA sent out several FAQs to everyone to make certain all receive information.

Questions have revolved around staffing In-Home Service caregivers. The concern is that there will not be enough care givers going into the homes due to illness or other reasons. In order to ensure staffing IDoA has been in contact with HFS and Federal CMS to waive initial requirements through Appendix K – pre-service training, criminal background requirement and educational requirement. We are waiting on approval through Federal CMS.

Mike Berkes: Emergency Senior Services (ESS) Funding requested by CCUs.

IDoA is working on an FAQ document focusing on Senior Services which will go out to everyone today (March 24, 2020). It has been set in place to provide goods and services for our seniors who are in need as a result of COVID-19. If something is clearly listed in Exhibit A, please move forward with your purchases. If you have a need for something that is not listed in Exhibit A, please reach out to either Mike Berkes (Mike.Berkes@illinois.gov) or John Eckert (John.Eckert@illinois.gov) .

Lora McCurdy: In-Home Services caregivers training requirement waiver. One training area that is not waived is that you must still check the Healthcare worker registry (which includes the APS registry) before a worker can become an In-Home Service Caregiver.

Becky Dragoo: AAA/OAS Re: Meals. IDoA has pushed out all the remaining state funds that were available to the AAAs. This ensures AAAs have current funding to cover the cost of meals and other expenses. We received about \$8M in funding under the Federal Families First Corona Response Act. IDoA is working with our fiscal department to make all of the allocations; however we do have to push that forward to the Comptroller's office for processing.

Lora McCurdy: Updated Training Tool. The tool is for in-home staff to use. The tool has been translated into Spanish.

Open discussions from the floor

1. **Are Guidance Documents on the IDoA Website?** We will be putting these on the website shortly.
2. **Will IDoA be providing assistance to Providers for PPE?** Providers are being asked to provide a count of PPE that they will need.
3. **Will there be financial assistance from IDoA/State/Federal governments for In-Home Providers?** There's not a lot that IDoA can do about providing this assistance, however providers are welcome to contact GOMB (Governor's Office of Management and Budget) with concerns and questions.
4. **EHR Service Techs are experiencing an increase in requests for equipment. This requires background checks, etc for the new techs to be able to service the clients in their homes. Do new techs fall under the same program as In-Home Service caregivers from Federal CMS to waive certain requirements to expedite hiring new techs for equipment installation and tutoring for usage?** That has not been made clear to us yet, but we will be holding internal discussions on that subject. **Suggestion from providers to hold a round table discussion on this topic.**

Chuck Vincent, New IDoA Website Introduction. The new IDoA website home page was presented to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 1:30 pm. Follow-up call was scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2020.