

LTC Council Minutes

December 8, 2021

Attendees:

Kelly Richards	Bruce Carmona	Angela Simmons
Lisa Bridwell	Teresa Parks	Jake Smith
Janene Brickey	Josh Potts	Veronica Riley
Stacy McIntyre	Marsha Johnson	Phillip Miller
Stacey Aschemann	Director Basta	Gwen Diehl
Sheila Baker	Karin Zosel	Veronica Riley
Ali Johnson	Lynne Bergero - Telligen	Jessica Belsly
Chuck Miller	Lee Moriarty	Candice Mitchell
Lora McCurdy	Selma D'Souza	Suzanne Courtheoux
Elaina Finney	Sharon McLemen	Lawrence Wagner
Trish Niewoehner	Bernard Cobbins	
Stephen Maxwell	Theresa Kuhlmann	

Acknowledgement of New Members:

Bruce Carmona – resident of a long-term care facility.

Casey Bailey – works for Molina Health who works with waiver participants

Theresa Parks – Deputy Director Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission and Human Rights Authority Director

Lisa Bridwell gave a presentation about the work of Telligen.

CMS tells the QIO which facilities to reach out to due to infection control triggers. Telligen is working with almost 325 nursing homes in Illinois to identify high priority and systemic quality issues and do a root cause analysis and look for opportunities to improve the process.

Blue Ribbon in COVID-19 Vigilance Award – reach out to nursing homes to complete an attestation indicating that they have processes in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Need to achieve a staff vaccination rate of 85% or higher and a resident vaccination rate of 95% or higher.

Anyone can join Telligen's QI Connect to get access to the tools in their portal.

CMS pays the QIO, so there is no cost to a nursing home.

Lynne Bergero works with community resources.

Angela Simmons – new Senior Homes Administrator with the IL VA

IL VA is not certified by CMS, but USDVA. Licensed through IDPH. 5 facilities. Not rehab to home. Pay is based on income but not assets. Max cost is \$1400/month.

Angela shared the 5 major action items the VA facility in Anna implemented to increase vaccination rates among staff. After the plan was implemented, 82 of 84 staff have been vaccinated.

Becky Dragoo – IDPH update

LTC Facility Guidance was updated on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. The changes were issued in response to the CMS visitation guidance that was recently released. The QSO speaks to the importance of visitation to help prevent social isolation.

Because of appeals to the federal mandatory vaccination order, that new rule is on hold because of pending appeals.

Becky reviewed the new guidance and encouraged individuals to reach out to IDPH if facilities aren't allowing visitation.

All licensed facilities are now required to report vaccination information.

Question – what is happening to those facilities who are still in the denial phase. Is there any other resource to try to work with facilities vs. sending in surveyors? The infection preventionists are trying to do that. Lori Hendren with AARP encouraged the group to have a resource guide or a posting who family members need to contact if there are issues with access.

Lori Hendren – AARP

AARP is hosting a LTC Summit on Dec. 16th from 9am-12:45pm. Three power sessions. Roadmap to get out of where we are now. The challenge of LTC. A robust conversation about HCBS.

AARP.org/il to register. AARP, SEIU, Alzheimer's IL, and Access Living.

Chuck Miller – SLTCOP

Special Focus Facilities. These facilities often have over 10 deficiencies and a pattern of deficiencies. A new list of special focus facilities was released today. University Rehab in Urbana was added as well as Aperion Care in Chicago. One facility, Generations of Rock Island, isn't showing improvement. Two facilities came off the list.

CMS limits the number of SFF allowed to have. CMS places the candidates on the list.

SFF are limited to federally funded facilities.

Chuck showed the listing of the newly added facilities.

State Agency Updates:

Ombudsman Program – Kelly Richards

Hosted a 2nd town hall meeting in October. Had a panel of residents. Had a meaningful discussion about resident rights and the residents shared about their experience exercising their rights. Goal is to have future town hall meetings.

Working to raise awareness about the LTCOP. Gave several presentations and meeting with legislators.

Hearing about major staffing issues. The National Ombudsman Resource Center released a report about the need for improved staffing in facilities.

Home Care Ombudsman Program – LaRhonda Williams was the previous supervisor and has taken a different position at IDoA. Joe Danner is filling in temporarily.

Janene Brickey – HFS – No Update

Ali Johnson – DHS compliance officer – IL has achieved 155 Colbert transitions. Williams numbers are 121 year to date.

Phil Miller – IL State Police – No Update

Gwen Diehl – IL VA – No Update. Angela covered everything.

Josh – No Update

Teresa Parks – IL Guardianship and Advocacy - Supported Decision-Making Act fact sheet is now available on the website. Training will be available soon. The sex ed training is currently being implemented. Curriculum is available on the DHS website.

Becky Drago – IDPH – several rules are pending in front of the IL Advisory Group meeting. These rules are on social isolation and electronic monitoring.

Question – concern raised about staffing issues in the evenings and that IDPH surveyors aren't investigating on off hours but during the day. Becky Dragoo encouraged complainants to specify the issue is after hours.

Marcia motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stacey seconded.