



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging
Charles D. Johnson, Director

Illinois Long-Term Care Council Meeting

Date: November 14, 2007

Location: Northfield Inn Conference Center, Springfield, Illinois

Voting Members in Attendance: Barb Craig, Brigit Dyer-Reynolds, Nancy Flowers, Eva Hall, Wendy Meltzer, Pam Edelman-Sall, David Sutor, Dave Vinkler (for Pat Comstock), Sally Petrone, Tami Lynn Wacker (for Michael O'Donnell)

Voting Members Not Present: Sampson Beaman, Diane Coleman, Martha Holstein, Jerry Jordan, Sue Kerrigan, Myrtle Klauer, Dwight Miller, Margaret Niederer, Ben Perkins, Julie Sampson

Guests: Matt Hartman and Christie Liebe

State of Illinois Staff: Marie Havens and Sharon Woods

The meeting officially opened with Co-Chair Nancy Flowers, welcoming Council members and guests. Introductions of all Council members were made.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the June 12, 2007 meeting were approved as sent.

Presentation: Status of 2007 State Legislation affecting long term care residents by Matt Hartman, Illinois Health Care Association. Mr. Hartman discussed the concerns of the 2008 legislation:

- Health Facilities Planning Board HB 611
- SB 244 IHCA one year extension for task force
- Change of ownership of facility HB 625
- Medicaid eligibility bill SB 1349 (electronic process to assist with reimbursements and requiring all to use web processing)
- SB500 Smoking ban statewide within long-term care facilities, with no amendments made to bill, but rule writing process would address this issue. Recommendation to draft a letter to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to elect to be smoke-free at nursing home facilities, which is prohibited by the Life Safety Code. IDPH struggling with supportive living facilities, which is currently exempt from this law. Clarification needed for designated smoking areas/lounge only occupied by smokers.
- HB 3623 to address nursing shortage issue with college scholarships to advance nursing degree not geared at long-term care. The Illinois Nursing Association supports the bill and will not be easily moved on the issue.
- SB 866: Fingerprint and Background Check is currently running under a pilot program until final rule is written. IDPH is seeking vendor to handle statewide screening.
- Board and Care passage with licensing with two or more persons not related. (shared housing versus assisted living)

The Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA) will not pursue new legislation for next year, but plan to continue to work on current initiatives. Mr. Hartman reported on the merger of the public policy side of the Council of Long Term Care and IHCA, effective immediately.

Pam Edellman-Sall noted the proposed changes in HB 652, and the elimination of Section 8 contracts for senior housing. She asked for Long-Term Care Council membership support on more Section 8 housing.

Transfer of ownership of Manor Care to Carle Group discussion: A group discussion occurred on the transfer of the Manor Care facilities to the Carle Group voicing concerns on financial obligations and requesting the new owner to provide financial reports, staffing levels concerns, reduction of medical supplies, quality of food, Medicaid bed reduction and the appropriate care so clients will not suffer. The group discussion led to a written request to voice concerns to IDPH regarding the transfer of ownership. David Sutor will report the status at the next meeting. Sharon Woods will supply Ms. Petrone with the number of Medicaid licensed beds and Medicaid certified.

Building an FY08 Legislative Agenda: Ms. Flowers reported the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) bills did not pass out of the legislature. Brigit Dyer-Reynolds reminded attendees not to give up on the PNA increase and recommended to bring the issue back up for consideration in the next legislation session, as well increased Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) funding. The group needs to continue to meet with legislators on these issues.

Ms. Petrone reported that the Department on Aging is currently working on FY09 funding request.

Presentation: "Police and Ombudsmen, Working Together" by Mary Woolery, Officer, Illinois State Police

New Business: Nancy Flowers made a recommendation to post LTC Council information to the IDoA web site: (meeting minutes, member listing, conference calls). Eva Hall and Brigit Dyer-Reynolds seconded the motion.

Marie Havens noted the need for necessary training with the mentally ill clients, and on service maximums with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

LTCOP Strategic Plan: Ms Petrone discussed the Illinois LTCOP's Strategic plan for FY2008-FY2009:

- Priority I: Training: Strengthen and enhance the standardized training curriculum for the LTCOP.
- Priority II: Priorities/Burden: Balance priorities and the burden of the role of the LTCOP.
- Priority III: Residents Rights Awareness: Create a statewide focus on Residents Rights.
- Priority IV: Resources/Partners: Maximize and identify assets/resources of the LTCOP
- Priority V: Volunteers: Review and evaluate use of volunteers in the LTCOP.
- Priority VI: Under 60: Create policy to address serving residents under 60 years of age.

Annual Report Plan: Ms. Flowers discussed the LTCOP Strategic Plan and future LTC Council agenda:

- Ownership of Nursing home facilities
- PNA
- Increased LTCOP funding
- Successes of this council
- Medicaid funding
- Mental ill issues
- Accessibility with council
- Day-to-day dignity and attacking the problem head on, commitment beyond us
- More public relations efforts for LTCOP
- Keep and promote public forum time allotment at every LTC Council meeting
- Initiatives of council to address concerns
- Lack of membership attendance, application process with increased OMB, family members and facility representation, additional State representation
- Keep generalized conversation for all to comprehend
- Good news- fingerprint checks
- Money Follows the Person – Medicaid funded program

Open Public Forum: None

Next LTC Council meetings:

- March 12, 2008 -- Hawthorne Suites, Bloomington
- June 10, 2008 -- Northfield Inn, Springfield
- November 18, 2008 -- Age Options Office, Oak Park

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Connie Hill