



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Illinois Department on Aging
Charles D. Johnson, Director

Illinois Long-Term Care Council Meeting

Date: August 28, 2008

Location: Video Conference

Members in attendance: (Chicago) Pam Edelmann-Sall, Brigit Dyer-Reynolds, Nancy Flowers, Mary Killough, Rebecca Harshbarger, and Sally Petrone. (Springfield) Sharon Woods, Debra Dell, Michael O'Donnell, Eva Hall, Myrtle Klauer

State of Illinois staff: Neyna Johnson

Guests: Mary Miller and Eva Hall's husband

Co-Chair Nancy Flowers opened the meeting. Introductions were made at both locations.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Mike O'Donnell to approve the June 10 meeting minutes as sent to members. Seconded by Pam Edelmann-Sall. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Presentation on "Your Healthcare Plus"

Mary Miller, of HFS (Department of Health Care and Family Services) presented on "Your Healthcare Plus", a disease management program implemented in July 2006 and designed to help patients manage their total healthcare. HFS contracts with McKesson Health Solutions to manage the program. Individuals must be Medicaid eligible. Certain LTC facilities were chosen on inpatient services and claims data related to emergency room utilization. For the long term care population, the program is capped at 1200 residents at 25 facilities. Eligible residents must have at least one of the five chronic illnesses: asthma, coronary artery disease, COPD, diabetes, or heart failure. Ms. Miller distributed info packets to the members comprised of a fact sheet and target population report. Questions and answer time was permitted after the presentation.

Communication and correspondence

Several letters were written on behalf of the LTC Council. Margaret Niederer wrote a letter to Illinois Issues' Editor, Dana Heupel about the LTC Council responsibilities and goals. Copies of the letter were distributed and the members thanked Ms. Niederer for writing the letter.

Nancy Flowers had written a letter to Governor Blagojevich and to legislators thanking them for keeping in the GRF funding increase for the LTCOP. Nancy also wrote a letter to the Governor in support of increasing the number of IDPH surveyors.

Ethics questions asked at June 10 LTC Council meeting

At the June 10 Council meeting, Karen Kloppe of IDOA, provided a short training on ethics. From that presentation, questions were asked and then sent to IDOA's Chief Legal Counsel, George Sisk. Mr. Sisk attended the Springfield meeting location to respond to four questions.

Question 1: Clarify any restrictions regarding participation in the actions of being a LTC Council member and a registered lobbyist.

Response: Since the LTC Council makes nonbinding recommendations, it is not a problem for a career or contractual lobbyist to be a LTC Council member.

Question 2: Provide an explanation regarding how to balance competing duties to act in the best interest of the State when a person is on the council to represent a particular advocacy group in making disclosures and recommendations.

Response: Members should not be promoting only their advocacy group's interests. Each member must remember that there is an inherent duty to the department, and to Illinois seniors in serving on this board. Members should, however, be forthcoming with their opinions regarding department policies and programs. If a particular Department program or initiative does not work for the members of a particular advocacy group, the Department wants and needs to know the reasons. Members should not attempt to change or affect department policy solely for the benefit of their advocacy groups. All on all, it is up to each council member to determine how to best deal with competing interests.

Question 3: Provide the definition for the term "official state business" found on the "time sheets" header on page 3 of the paper ethics.

Response: Today's Council meeting is official state business as well as the time spent during a subcommittee meeting. Prep time is not state business. In order for a member to be ethically correct, one should complete the time sheets to show how much work time was spent at Council meetings, at subcommittee meetings and when they function as a LTC Council member.

Question 4: Confirm that it is appropriate to recuse oneself from a vote if a registered lobbyist avoids the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Response: Yes, it is appropriate. Each member can decide when and how often to recuse oneself.

FY09 Budget and Legislation

HB3508 — was signed by the Governor on August 14 and now Public Act 95-0823. The Act requires the State Ombudsman and the Attorney General to create a database and post Consumer Choice Information Reports (CCIR) about long term care facilities using a hyperlink labeled "Residents Right to Know" on the IDoA web page. CCIRs will be completed by licensed facilities using Survey Monkey and drawn down into a searchable database. Effective date when CCIRs will be made available to the public is July 1, 2009. Pilot testing the Consumer Choice Reports will begin in late Fall 2008.

No increase for LTCOP — the FY09 \$450,000 increase for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program that was in the original Governor's budget was recently line item vetoed (removed) by the Governor. The I4A (Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging) is assessing the fiscal impact of the loss of additional funds to the ombudsman program by asking regional ombudsman programs to answer a series of questions and to return the answers immediately. Mike O'Donnell stated that ECIAAA FTEs of ombudsmen will decrease from 3.00 to 2.5 plus they will need to recruit 9 additional volunteers to cover the loss of paid staff.

Nancy Flowers asked how the Council can help with this financial crisis. Mike O'Donnell responded by stating that it is a demographic challenge that we are faced with since it is the 85+ population who is fastest growing population in America. Our challenge is to raise awareness of the 85+ population needs and then to meet their needs.

Brigit Dyer-Reynolds made the recommendation that I4A and IALTCO develop an impact statement together on this demographic challenge. Mike O'Donnell said he needed IALTCO's response by mid September.

Best methods to heighten awareness of the impact statement were discussed. Suggestions entertained were: educating legislators at their district offices, inviting legislators to attend a resident council meeting, having a family member send a personal message to their legislators, and sending out these personal messages together. Nancy Flowers recalled that Wendy Meltzer had written a letter about family councils. Eva Hall asked for a copy of the letter.

Myrtle Klauer stated that SB2880 set the stage to have Illinois provide more community-based services and decrease the number of nursing home beds. She also said to remember the extra service ombudsmen provide as the number of assisted living, shared housing and supportive living facilities continue to climb. Sharon Woods told the members there are 100 supportive living facilities (SLF) with 7,825 apartments. 60% are Medicaid and the application process to be a SLF reopened in designated areas on August 15.

Deb Dell made the recommendation to research how other states fund their ombudsman program. Sally Petrone stated that the Ohio Ombudsman Program receives a bed tax and would do the research.

In regards to the CCP (Community Care Program) budget, IDoA required CCP providers to reduce care plans by 1.5 hours/week of their 50,000 case load. The adult day care services and senior companion were excluded from the cuts. A major rally in Chicago was scheduled for 1:00 PM today opposing line item vetoes, the CCP cuts and the 3% mandated reserves but at 12:30, news broke that the Governor told IDoA to rescind the CCP cuts and the rally was postponed. However, the 3% reserve – where it will come from – is in question. 3% of IDoA's budget equates to \$41 million. Members wondered how the 3% reserve would affect other aging programs since the money has to come from somewhere.

Per Mike O'Donnell, and speaking on behalf of I4A is looking at policy options such as: limit intake of new clients; reduce the service package; reduce provider payments; and with the annual growth of 8% of CCP, services must be provided more cost effectively.

Subcommittee Reports

Quality Indicators and Pioneer Practices — Mike O'Donnell recommended that the LTC Council be working in the same direction as OASAC (Older Adult Services Advisory Council).

LTC Ombudsman subcommittee — Chair, Wendy Meltzer, was absence so no report given.

A discussion was led on allowing Council subcommittees to use the toll free IDCMS telecom service when holding phone meetings. Sally Petrone said it was possible for IDoA to absorb a portion of the telephone costs and asked subcommittee chairs to determine the number of calls needed/year and submit to IDOA. Mike O'Donnell talked of a telephone system called telephone.com that the ECIAAA uses where those participants who are on the conference call,

pay for their phone time and not for the connection or base fee. Nancy Flowers recommended that the Department on Aging develop a policy for subcommittees to use the IDCMS 888 toll free conference calling or be reimbursed for the telephone charge.

LTC Council bylaws — discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 18 at the AgeOptions, Inc., office in Oak Park.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes prepared by Sally Petrone