

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Illinois Long Term Care Council
Springfield, Illinois
Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 2010**

Attendance

Council members present: Sally Petrone, Margaret Niederer, Robyn O'Neill, Dave Vinkler, Eve Hall, and Phyllis Mitzen.

State Agency Members: Co-chair Lee Beneze (Department on Aging), Sharon Woods (Department of Healthcare and Family Services), Rick Dees (Department of Public Health), Robyn O'Neill (Legal Assistance Foundation), and Sgt. Todd Trautvetter (Illinois State Police).

Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman: Neyna Johnson.

Guests: None.

Members Absent: Ann Ford, Michael O'Donnell and Dave Sutor.

Initial Matters & Minutes

The Council meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the Co-chair, Lee Beneze. The first order of business was a round of self-introductions by members. It was noted that the Council did not have a quorum present.

It was noted that Deb Dell has retired and Sgt. Trautvetter of the Illinois State Police has taken her place. All new Council members were reminded that they must complete and file the Ethics Statement.

Minutes from the prior meeting were incomplete. They will be revised and resubmitted for review and approval.

State Agency Reports

Sharon Woods of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services reported on Supportive Living Facilities, (SLFs). She reported that applications had been solicited and received for the SLF Dementia Pilot and for the aged 22-64 facilities. Up to five dementia pilot sites will be selected.

She also reported that her Department has published rules on the implementation of the federal Deficit Reduction Act. The proposed rules were published in August, after which follows a 45 day period for public comment. From the date of publication, the agency has up to one year to adopt the rules. Over 300+ pages of comments had been received. Most comments came from senior advocacy groups, financial planners, and elder law attorneys.

Rick Dees of the Department of Public Health reported that the Department of Public Health is working on the rules to implement last year's nursing home safety legislation. He reported that there is likely to be a bill in the 2011 session to clean up and do technical corrections to last year's nursing home legislation.

Rick reported that some hiring of new surveyors has taken place. Most of the initial hiring is focusing on the Bellwood office because currently it is at one surveyor for 1,000 beds; the Department would like to get that ratio to 1 for 300 beds.

Phyllis Mitzen suggested that we need to discuss what role the Council can play in increasing the funding for the nursing home safety legislative initiative. It was remarked that Dave Vintner was a good strategist on these legislative matters, so it was suggested that the Council turn to him for creating a legislative strategy.

State Long Term Care Ombudsman Sally Petrone pointed out that last year the Governor's office had shot down the push for a bed tax fee and a consumer choice report fee, both of which would have provided needed financial resources to the Ombudsman Program.

Annual Report

Phyllis Mitzen presented the most recent draft of the proposed LTCC Annual Report, on which she and Margaret Neiderer had worked. Phyllis stated that the purpose of this Report is to both provide a summary for ombudsman to use, and to create a blueprint on the Councils' future actions and agenda for the next year.

Margaret Neiderer added that the report was designed to be useful in interactions with legislators.

Comments from Council members on the draft were requested. It was asked that the comments should be as specific as possible.

There was a discussion of how the Council could approve the final corrected draft. It was decided that the report be presented in a conference call, then the members would have an

opportunity to approve the draft. [The draft, with some further revisions, was e-mailed to all members in November; members were asked to suggest revisions or register any opposition to the use of the draft as the final draft. As of December 1, 2010, with the window for comments from members closed, no opposing votes were received. The draft was considered adopted.]

Public Hearing

There was an animated discussion of the organization, format, purpose and hoped for results of the scheduled public hearing to be held at the Governor's Conference in Chicago on December 8th. The plan was to invite a wide variety of organizations to send a representative to give brief testimony at the hearing. Work on the planning of the public hearing would go forward based on the suggestions.

Other Old Business

Margaret Niederer inquired as to what happened to the motions made and adopted. She specifically mentioned a letter thanking the legislator for passing SB 326. Margaret volunteered to draft a letter to legislators, MN volunteered to write it.

Phyllis Mitzen asked that she and Dave Vinkler be placed on the next agenda to discuss the implementation of SB326.

The comment was made that the Regional Ombudsman believed that they are purposely being excluded from the rate review meetings and meetings of the advisory groups working on the implementation of Senate Bill 326. The comment was that Ombudsmen do not have the resources to randomly attend meetings to which they are not invited.

It was explained that the confusion might have arisen because there were some meetings that were open to the public and others that were restricted to Departmental staff. Advocates have asked for more clarification as to when the meetings are open and some timely notice of those so that they can participate.

There was a brief discussion of the idea that a stenographer be hired. When this was looked into, Lee reported, it was determined that it would be too expensive.

There was a discussion of what the minutes should include. It was generally agreed that the minutes should be briefer and include only a reference to the minutes that were passed and the action items that were noted. Other parts of the minutes, such as a record of the discussion of reports, should be kept to a bare minimum.

Rebuilding Membership

Lee asked that the issue of rebuilding the membership of the group be continued until the next meeting. It was noted the many members' terms had expired, and additional appointments to the Council were necessary. There was still a need to elect a co-chair. It was questioned why there would be a limit on two terms for members, but it was explained that the statute set the two term limit.

Meetings in 2011 and Adjournment

Dates for the meetings in 2011 were set for January 18 (later moved to January 25), March 22, June 21, and October 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.