



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: January 23, 2006

Location: Illinois Department on Aging, Chicago, and conference call

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee Members:

Stephanie Altman, Health and Disability Advocates
Darby Anderson, Addus HealthCare
Pat Comstock, Illinois Health Care Association
Donna Ginther, AARP
Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging
Flora Johnson, SEIU Local 880
Kelly Cunningham for Ann Marie Murphy, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Jonathan Lavin, Suburban Area Agency on Aging
David Lindeman, Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging
Phyllis Mitzen, citizen member over the age of 60
Enrique Unanue, Illinois Department of Public Health
Cathy Weightman-Moore, Catholic Charities Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Department staff:

Michael Gelder
Rance Carpenter
John Eckert
Ross Grove
Dave Vinkler
Robin Morgan
Leann Dolan
Eric Bernardo

Absent:

Dennis Bozzi, Life Services Network

Guests:

Paul Bennett, UIC

SUMMARY:

Welcome

Director Johnson welcomed the members to the meeting. Participants introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes

Darby Anderson and Cathy Weightman-Moore moved to amend the minutes. Both were present at the December 21 meeting by conference call and were listed as absent. David Lindeman moved to approve the minutes as amended. Darby Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Status of Report to the General Assembly

Director Johnson reported that the report was finished last week. A copy was submitted to the Governor's office as a courtesy. The Department is proceeding with printing the report and hope to have it finished in 4-5 days. The report is 99% the same as the last draft circulated.

OASAC retreat

Deputy Gelder explained that we want to establish the committee as a coherent, cohesive body that functions together even though we come from different organizations and backgrounds. This year has not afforded us a great opportunity to function together. The retreat should serve that purpose.

Phyllis Mitzen explained that a retreat would allow us a moment to step back. The committee should be its own entity with all of the members working towards a common goal.

John Eckert envisioned the retreat as an opportunity to provide an overview of 2880, as well as a discussion of the frame work, and goals and objectives for next year. This would also be an opportunity to look at how the Department is working with the OASAC and if we are happy with the structure and process that has been established. OASAC members, members of workgroups as well as other aging network entities would all be welcome. The Departments of Public Health and Healthcare and Family Services would also be included.

David Lindeman suggested that it may be helpful if people had already read and become familiar with what the committee and workgroups are doing to allow the retreat to focus on a discussion of the challenges, how we can help each other, the state's perspective and any barriers to the committee's goals. Darby Anderson suggested that the retreat not focus on structure or workgroup reports and instead provide an opportunity to get some feedback from the administration.

Director Johnson explained that the Department is open to a strategy. The Department has tried to keep Louanner Peters, Deputy Chief of Staff, informed about the work of the committee. The Department would like to explore options and facilitate moving those issues along. The report presents a fresh opportunity.

Jonathan Lavin suggested that the retreat also allow for a discussion of where we want to go with the workgroups as well as the entire committee. Once we know what the goal is, the workgroups and committee can pursue it. We should make sure we aren't trying to recreate programs that already have models and services.

Deputy Gelder acknowledged that it will be a challenge to find a day for the retreat that everyone can attend during legislative session. Another challenge will be getting a commitment from those members that have not invested a great deal of time in this so far, to spend an entire day at the retreat and commit to more time in the future.

Members discussed who would be invited to the retreat. John Eckert said he would like to invite members of workgroups as well as committee members. A concern was raised that too much time would have to be spent educating those that have not been involved so far. Pat Comstock suggested a briefing be held before the retreat to allow for a one hour block of time for a briefing of 2880 and the committee's activities to date.

Donna requested to allow all interested parties to the retreat, not just members of the committee. People not on the committee have devoted a significant amount of time on OASAC activities. At the same time, there are members of OASAC that have never participated in a workgroup.

Deputy Gelder summarized the comments concerning the retreat. Two general concerns have been raised. We need to look at how everyone feels about the committee's responsibilities and what steps are needed to advance the agenda. We also need to allow time to educate and review the activities of the committee. We want to recognize the knowledge base the workgroups offer. They should be invited to the retreat. Their input is needed; it is important to the work of the committee and we will need more help from them in the future. We also need to pursue the idea of using the report as a way of exposing the committee's hard work, in general.

It was suggested that three briefings be held around the state. Director Johnson asked if there was consensus to do a retreat and if anyone was interested in forming a subcommittee to give some guidance. It was decided that three briefings be held in next three months and the retreat be delayed until after the legislative session.

Deputy Gelder has heard comments throughout the past year from members that the committee needs a firmer vision about what we want to accomplish and how to get there as well as the workgroup structure and strength. It was great to get the workgroups up and running but that didn't make the committee a strong group. Unless you were a committee chair you probably didn't feel very involved. We want to give people a sense of ownership and value.

The Department will work on finding a location for the retreat. Director Johnson asked for volunteers to structure the retreat. Phyllis Mitzen, Pat Comstock, David Lindeman and Kelly Cunningham volunteered to help with the retreat that will be held on April 26.

By – Laws Discussion

Deputy Gelder suggested that it may be time for the Committee to develop by-laws. We have been adding to a set of rules all along through committee votes but we would like to put them all down in one document. The Department could present something at the next meeting and allow the committee to give comments.

Members agreed to refer to the document as an operations manual instead of by-laws.

Update on Systems Change Grant

Deputy Gelder informed the members that the Department has contracted with UIC and Paul Bennett to take on the responsibility of the Systems Change Grant. Paul Bennett was at the meeting to brief the executive committee on the Systems Change Grant. Paul's summary of the grant is attached in a separate document.

The Executive Committee is in an advisory role leading the inventory. Paul will also be seeking assistance from the AAAs.

Paul informed the committee that he currently serves as co-chair for the Point of Entry workgroup. He is looking for advice and consultation with various subcommittees as the project moves towards more collaboration. The goal is to make sure the inventory is sensitive to the consumer.

The executive committee discussed the role OASAC would take in being advisory to the grant. The Services workgroup had previously been asked to serve as an advisory committee to the inventory. Paul

clarified that he is not interested in forming any additional committees but is looking for advice that is focused and represents all the necessary groups.

It was suggested that the Finance workgroup also be involved with the inventory to look at what it costs for an individual to live in various areas across the state. Paul is interested in moving things along and wants to make sure all interested parties are on the same page.

Donna Ginther agreed that the inventory is integrated across all workgroups and suggested to Director Johnson that this be named a separate workgroup.

The committee discussed the separate facilities inventory being done by the Conversion workgroup and agreed that it should go along with the inventory Paul is doing.

Donna suggested the Department may need to step back and look at all the advisory committees and their structure.

The inventory the Conversion workgroup is conducting was discussed. That inventory includes information from the Health Facilities Planning Board (HFPB) and Medicare and Medicaid payments, diagnosis, beds and types of facilities. The HFPB does not track who provides services and if a person is an in-patient or out-patient. Enrique explained that nursing facilities also provide respite and other services. The bed tax is critical and can impact the state income if we go from licensed beds to actual beds. This could impact the source of income to the state.

Paul asked is there was a consensus that the inventory would be a subgroup of the Services workgroup. Everyone agreed it would.

Donna stated she feels this should be a free standing workgroup that the Department should appoint people to. Deputy Gelder agreed to take that into consideration.

Paul agreed to participate in next Finance workgroup meeting.

Other business

Deputy Gelder allowed opportunity for a brief legislative update. HB 4404, mirrors OASAC's recommendation for health insurance. This will also be introduced in the Senate with the same language.

Members discussed their role as an advisory committee and what, if any, voice they should have with the legislators. It was suggested, that as an advisory committee to Director Johnson, they should not issue any opinions outside of those given to the Department. The report to the General Assembly will be the Committee's voice.

It was explained how the goals in the report could turn into legislation. The Department could offer legislation going through the Governor's office, individual groups could put legislation forward or a legislator could embody a portion of the report.

Donna Ginther explained current legislation that AARP has introduced, the Illinois ElderCare Options Act. AARP attempted to carry a proposal to create an integrated long term care system. The legislation may only be a vehicle. AARP has a variety of things out there that could be amended later.

Deputy Gelder explained that not all things require legislation. Some things could be done through the rule-making process. There could also be a joint resolution memorializing the report.

Although the committee can't introduce legislation, there is no problem with committee members adding to testimony that they were participant on a committee that recommended this and informing legislators that such a committee exists. Deputy Gelder agreed to keep the committee informed about legislation and what actions are occurring.

Donna informed the committee that AARP has introduced some legislation that is facing opposition from the network. She has learned that there is a movement encouraging legislators to vote against any legislation that is a result the OASAC. Donna was told that members of the Area Agency Association had received incorrect information that one of AARP's bills would shift money away from the AAAs.

John Lavin explained that there is a \$2 million fund divided between the 13 areas. Those dollars are looked at every year during budget season. The AAAs are concerned that money might be on the chopping block. Donna expressed her concern about this opposition. Any strong opposition against implementing any objectives from 2880 could be devastating.

Donna explained that AARP is committed to seeing the Governor put money into the budget to expand services. Donna met with Bradley Tusk to discuss this and unless we start now to infuse cash, we'll be in same place in two years that we are now. Donna told the Governor it would take \$27 million to do comprehensive case management. The Deputy Governor thought it would be good to put senior groups together and find consensus. The first meeting is Wednesday. The actual number for comprehensive case management is \$28.8 million.

Deputy Gelder discussed with the committee what the nursing facility associations had done in terms of getting money in the budget. The nursing facility associations got together and presented to the Governor their budget needs. Donna Ginther was familiar with this proposal and said the total proposal was \$81 million. She also said she believed that the nursing home associations believe an equal amount of money should be placed in home and community services.

Donna voiced her concern that if there is any dissension among the aging network, there will not be any additional money.

AARP's list of priorities does not encompass the entire OASAC report's recommendations. Donna met with Louanner Peters in October and was challenged to find infrastructure pieces and some things that don't cost money or may save money. AARPs recommendations are broader than the report and do not include home delivered meals. The Coalition on Aging endorsed AARPs recommendations. John Lavin disagreed that the Coalition had endorsed anything at its last meeting.

Deputy Gelder informed the members that the Department's budget will not be released until the Governor's address on February 15. The budget will be presented to the Aging network following the Governor's budget presentation.

Deputy Gelder recommended that the Executive Committee meet on the fourth Monday of every month from 3-5. Meetings can be cancelled if it is determined unnecessary.

The next meeting will be February 27.

The meeting was adjourned.