



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: July 25, 2005

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee Members:

Stephanie Altman, Health and Disability Advocates
Darby Anderson, Addus HealthCare
Dennis Bozzi, Life Services Network
Pat Comstock, Illinois Health Care Association
Donna Ginther, AARP
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
Enrique Unanue, Illinois Department of Public Health

Department staff:

Michael Gelder
Leann Dolan
Molly Spengler
Joseph Lugo
Robin Morgan
Ross Grove

Absent:

Ann Marie Murphy, Illinois Department of Public Aid
Sydney Bild, Metro Seniors in Action
Flora Johnson, SEIU Local 880

Guest:

Alicia Weber, SEIU Local 880, for Flora Johnson

SUMMARY:

Welcome

Deputy Director Michael Gelder welcomed the executive committee on behalf of Director Johnson who was unable to attend. Deputy Gelder discussed the preliminary report Director Johnson would like to have started by October. Legislators want an agenda for the next legislative session so it is important to have this report

completed by then. The need for more participation from the other two state agencies named in the legislation was discussed. The Departments of Public Health and Health and Family Services have been involved but are busy with other issues at the moment.

Discussion of Meeting with Legislators

Representatives Julie Hamos and Sarah Feigenholtz called a meeting with the Director of Aging and the chairs of the workgroups to discuss the OASAC. They have interest in the committee and long term care reform issues and think the Spring 2006 legislative session is the right time to pass legislation on this topic.

It was emphasized that these legislators are looking for very tangible ideas that they can act on. They want to see the top priorities the committee sends to the legislator include an actual plan of how to accomplish the priority as well as a timeline. When workgroups are creating their plans and concepts, it was suggested to include background information.

Workgroup Updates

- Donna Ginther presented for the Services Workgroup. The workgroup is focusing on putting together short term priorities that can be developed without the inventory. The group is meeting on August 4 to have the final list ready for the entire committee meeting on August 8. The Services workgroup is also looking at the comprehensive assessment system. They are looking at the different systems and how they communicate. The workgroup has found that the definitions are different within each system. They continue to focus on this to see if systems can work together so clients can move between settings and services as needed and not be reevaluated unnecessarily. So far, they have not found a state that has done this but will continue to look. The goal is to facilitate a person moving from service to service. Wisconsin was suggested as a state to look at. It is important to focus on how the assessment tool is being used, not the tool itself. The Services workgroup is focusing on providing Director Johnson with information at the August 8th meeting and refining it in time for the legislators' deadline.

Deputy Gelder commented that Director Johnson welcomes the interest of the legislators and does not want to let this opportunity pass us by. A concern is that we do not have a firm consensus from the agency directors that they are all on the same page.

- Pat Comstock presented for the Finance Workgroup. Their next meeting is this Friday. Pat had a conversation with Michele Piel of the Department on Aging regarding other information the committee needs such as banking, finance and bonding and how these things work. The workgroup is focused on looking for creative ways to find money. The workgroup is pulling information from other states promising practices on expansion of waivers. They are looking for other members that may be a good resource.
- David Lindeman presented for the Workforce and Caregiver Workgroup. The workgroup continues to focus on updating the objectives and deciding on top priorities that include action steps to be presented at the August 8 meeting. One specific objective may be to cover insurance for workers. This is a challenge but several options could be presented. The goal is to have consensus in any idea that is put forward to the legislators.
- Jonathan Lavin spoke for the Point of Entry workgroup. The workgroup is focusing on finding a name for coordinated points of entry. They came up with two suggestions. The first is Starting Point, building on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) name. The second idea builds off of Illinois Cares Rx and would be called Illinois Cares Senior Care. The workgroup has formed two subcommittees. The first subcommittee is looking to see if there is a pre-assessment screening form. This would allow a person to go to a location where they are comfortable and have a linkage to a more comprehensive system. The second subgroup is

looking at flow charts to identify where people are going and how they are getting help. The workgroup is looking at the employment access systems. They have access at libraries, computers and throughout the state. If we decided to do that, the Department would need to decide how many locations we can afford. It would not be necessary to have one in every community but every community would need to reach a coordinated point of entry. The workgroup is looking at the four ways people get information on services: 1, a website, 2, they make a phone call, 3, they go to the location, 4, a client may already be meeting with a case manager who has access. In Minnesota, the ADRC has 5-7 kiosks to get people to their statewide assessment process. The idea is to go where people go.

The Department would need to know how many coordinated points of entry are needed. The workgroup also suggested the possibility of investing in additional ADRCs as they are similar to a coordinated point of entry. A suggestion was made to look into corporate sponsorship. Companies such as Walgreen's, CVS or Wal-Mart may be interested in putting in a kiosk with internet access.

Discussion of Additional Workgroups

The possibility of creating additional workgroups has been mentioned. They are nursing home bed conversion, quality assurance, and housing. Nursing Home Bed Conversion is currently a subcommittee of the services workgroup. The OASA calls for DPA to report on nursing facility beds open and closed. It was decided to make nursing bed conversion its own workgroup and Enrique Unanue, IL Department of Public Health, volunteered to head this workgroup.

Quality Assurance is also a subgroup of the Services Workgroup. It was decided to leave it as a subcommittee at this time and possibly establish it as a workgroup next year.

The Governor has created a task force on housing. Instead of creating a workgroup on housing, it was decided to have a liaison for the existing task force. Deputy Gelder offered to serve as the liaison between the Governor's Task Force on Housing and the OASAC.

Work Plan Resources

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG) used a grant through Retirement Research Foundation (RRF) to help draft a work plan. The work plan will be updated and distributed to the full committee at the August 8 meeting. The work plan will be corrected and revised to contain the date and page number on every page. **Executive committee members must send comments on the work plan to the Department by August 1.** Please note the Excel document contains three separate worksheets.

Approve Agenda for August 8 meeting

A draft agenda was provided. Several changes were suggested. The agenda will be revised to allow the workgroups to speak after the executive committee update. This will allow the workgroups to present their priority items. The agencies will give their reports and then time will be allotted to vote on the priority items presented. The presentation from the Outcomes Measurement Committee will be delayed to a future meeting.

Schedule Next Executive Committee Meeting

August 24, 3 - 5 p.m., was chosen for the next meeting. There will be a location in Springfield and Chicago as well as a call in number to participate by phone.

Schedule Next Meeting for the full OASAC

August 8 is already scheduled for the next meeting in Chicago. The OASAC needs to meet before the October deadline so September 26 in Springfield will be another meeting of the OASAC. At that time, future meeting dates will be discussed. **The meeting was adjourned.**