



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: October 3, 2005

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee Members:

Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging
Stephanie Altman, Health and Disability Advocates
Darby Anderson, Addus HealthCare
Sydney Bild, Metro Seniors in Action
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 Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Department staff:

Michael Gelder
Molly Spengler
John Eckert
Joseph Lugo
Leann Dolan

Absent:

Ann Marie Murphy, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Flora Johnson, SEIU Local 880

SUMMARY:

Welcome

Director Johnson welcomed the members and thanked them for attending. There were no changes to the agenda.

Workgroup Meeting Issues

Open Meetings Act

Deputy Director Gelder informed the members of the executive committee that the Department, the full committee, workgroups and executive committee all fall under the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The

Department is waiting on direction and guidance from general counsel on this issue. The OMA would require the Department to post meetings and agendas ahead of time, possibly on the Department's website. The OASAC has been following the OMA but the workgroups and executive committee have not. The Department needs to determine if all work conducted by the OASAC, as required by 2880, would have to follow the OMA.

The committee discussed the Act and time frames. Deputy Gelder agreed to send the executive committee further guidance once a decision is made by the Department's general counsel.

The committee suggested looking into requirements of the Illinois Register as well as contacting the press association for more information.

Participation on workgroups

At the last Executive Committee meeting Director Johnson agreed to send a letter to those members of the full OASAC that had not joined a workgroup. The Department sent five letters and has received responses from Thomas Cornwall and Cheryl Woodson. Both members agreed to join a workgroup and expressed their enthusiasm about the committee. Deputy Gelder will follow up with those that have not yet responded.

Terms and open slots

There are still some unfilled slots on the committee as well as a newly vacated slot. Donna Ginther volunteered to follow up with the pharmacists association. Stephanie Altman volunteered to follow up with the county officials. The township official representative just recently left his position and the township officials will notify the Department when they have a replacement. Flora Johnson currently fills two slots and it was agreed to have Flora fill only one slot and allow someone else an opportunity on the committee.

Director Johnson will look at the attendance records of those with one year terms to determine who should be reappointed. Director Johnson will personally contact those members he would like to reappoint. The Department will then fill any vacancies.

Review of OASAC Priority Items

The Department provided the priority items document handed out at the September 26 OASAC meeting with the changes the committee agreed to and the outcomes of the voting. Director Johnson allowed time for members to review the document for accuracy.

Donna asked that the \$6 million for the Senior Center Grant Program be removed from the priority list from services priority goals, it was a typo.

The executive committee did not agree on the results of Services second priority item regarding transportation. Donna will take this issue back to the workgroup.

The executive committee discussed its authority to make decisions. The members agreed that although they may have authority to make changes to the priority items after the committee has voted, it is best to go back to the full committee with recommendations.

David Lindeman brought a recommendation from the Workforce/Caregiver workgroup to make health insurance for all long term care workers a priority item.

The executive committee discussed if this should be an additional priority item or replace the workgroup's first priority item. David reminded the executive committee that the intention of the

workgroup has always been to provide insurance for the entire group of long term care workers. From the discussion at the full committee meeting, the workgroup wanted to clarify its priorities and create an additional priority item to be included.

The committee discussed the issue of providing insurance for all long term care workers, how to determine the cost and the process of adding to the list the full committee has already voted on. David asked the executive committee to approve this item to look at methods to provide insurance to all long term care workers and present the details at the next meeting of the full committee.

Director Johnson explained that the Department has an obligation to develop a report from this committee that includes a comprehensive long term care strategy. The legislators are very interested in the work of the committee. It is possible that if they see the report, they will work on their own to fund some of the recommendations.

David Lindeman motioned to add an additional priority goal under workforce priorities to “Identify costs and a model for providing health insurance for all long term employees and recommend a priority program for introduction/expansion in 2006.” The motion was seconded by Phyllis Mitzen.

David reiterated that the workgroup would like to add this to the list of priority items so it is an exhaustive list and because the committee voted on the priority items presented on September 26.

The motioned passed.

The executive committee discussed next steps and their responsibilities. There is concern that the committee approved concepts and not functional plans for execution. The priority items do not contain dollar amounts. Director Johnson explained that we are starting the process now of stepping back and looking at the priority items that have passed.

It was suggested to have dollar amounts and a functional plan to share with everyone on the committee at the next meeting. The executive committee also needs to decide which ones are far enough along to present to full group and which ones will have to be discussed next year.

The role of the executive committee was discussed. Deputy Gelder explained that the executive committee is providing operational structure of the committee, performing administrative functions concerning the workgroups, member terms and other related tasks.

Donna Ginther mentioned that she had thought the executive committee would be reviewing the priority items and tightening them. The executive committee needs to decide what is doable and this may require saying that some items are not doable this year and coming up with a smaller list. The executive committee could then send the revised list to the full group and workgroups for comments. It is up to the executive committee to present a smaller list of what is doable.

A suggestion was made for the executive committee to meet in person in the future.

Deputy Gelder stated that the Department does not have enough staff to cost out all of the priority items the workgroups presented. The executive committee discussed how to get this done. It was agreed that the workgroups would be responsible for costing out their priority items. The Department staff person on each workgroup can be of assistance in getting necessary information to complete the task. As well as the costs of priority items, workgroups should also include resources available to fund the items.

Report to General Assembly

Deputy Gelder reported that the Department would like to retain report writers to capture what the committee has done so far. David Lindeman had suggested a group of technical writers to the Department. The Department is considering hiring Susan Pawlicki and Vada Repta to write the report. They were at the September 26 meeting of the OASAC. They have experience working with committees and have done work for the federal government. They can start work on this in October or early November. The Department's recommendation is to get the report and those responsibilities completed to allow staff to do other functions including cost analysis and other research related to OASAC.

It was suggested that the Department have someone look at the priority items and come back and say which ones we may not want to waste time on and also for the Department to provide information that others may not have related to the priority items.

Deputy Gelder responded that the Department is not withholding any information and does not already have any of the priority items costed out. The Department does not object to any of the proposed priority items.

Director Johnson added that the Department has another report due in January where we will estimate the unmet need for home delivered meals. The OASAC could use some information from that report.

The executive committee discussed the priority items and what 2880 has required. Many members feel that the current services don't offer the kind of support needed. We are stuck in terms of what we did in the past and haven't internalized our potential of 2880.

The representatives are looking at reforming the system, must look at reconfiguration to be sure offering right kind of packages.

Director Johnson suggested that the services expansion workgroup discuss what services are needed that we currently do not provide. Donna responded that she has done that. The problem is that the only people that participate in those discussions are those directly involved with an existing service.

Where do we go from here?

The committee discussed the long term care system infrastructure. The current use of workgroups was discussed. There was some concern about workgroups being so large instead of a small group discussion. For example, Services workgroup is very large and inclusive of the associations providing services to seniors. However, when there is a discussion, the members discuss what they already have and need more of. This will not solve the issue.

It is difficult for members to step out of their profession and look at what seniors need. There needs to be an environment where questions can be asked without others being defensive. The groups also need an environment where we can talk about services provided outside of Illinois that may better suited to serve the people of Illinois. The services available in Wisconsin have been mentioned.

It was suggested that the committee bring models forward to the executive committee to synthesize and put together for consideration to help move process along.

Deputy Gelder reported that he had met with staff to discuss a facilitated planning process. Staff discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the approach we are using. There is very little conversation on an overall model including outside forces and trends. The committee got sidetracked from the MAPP model when the legislators came to us and asked for fast track items. Deputy Gelder proposed using the

next OASAC meeting or two to get us all thinking and talking about the same issues and to hear each other. The committee is challenged to think more broadly.

The executive committee agreed that an outside facilitator is needed. Members are asked to send recommendations to the Department.

Schedule for OASAC

The committee decided to have the next meeting of the full committee on November 14, in Chicago. At that meeting the Department hopes to have a draft of the report for the General Assembly including having the priority recommendations and items costed out. Workgroups have the responsibility to do cost analysis, using department staff to provide assistance and share information. A suggestion was made to start the meeting earlier and take a longer break. The next meeting of OASAC will start at 12:30 instead of 1.

It was agreed that the Department would review the information for consistency.

It was agreed that the workgroups would provide the Department with the information by Mon, Oct 31, to put forward recommendations with as much assumptions and details so the department has time to review before Nov 14 meeting.

Workgroups should also be working on a draft to give to the technical writers

On October 31, all draft work plans should be sent to the department to give to the consultants. Any fiscal notes should be included.

Schedule for next Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the executive committee will be Friday, November 4, at 10 am. There will be a Chicago location and a call in number. The agenda for the full committee meeting will be finalized at that time.

Having a presentation from the Outcomes Measurement Committee was discussed.

The November 14 meeting will be devoted to the immediate task at hand with the next meeting in January completely devoted to the facilitated planning process. The Outcomes Measurement Committee presentation will be the first item on the agenda for November 14.

The procedure at the full committee was discussed. It was decided that the full committee will vote on the items and then the final decision will be made by the executive committee.

At the next executive committee meeting on November 4 the committee will walk through the items and look at them as a package. The workgroups should have their items costed out by October 31 so this information should be available for the November 4 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.