



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: August 27, 2007

Location: Illinois Department on Aging, 160 N. LaSalle, Ste. N-700, Chicago;
421 E. Capitol, Springfield; and conference call

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee Members:

Stephanie Altman, Health and Disability Advocates
Darby Anderson, Addus HealthCare
Carol Aronson, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors
Dennis Bozzi, Life Services Network
Kelly Cunningham for Theresa Eagleson, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging
Flora Johnson, SEIU Local 880
Jonathan Lavin, Age Options, Inc
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
Shelly Ebbert
John Eckert
Leann Dolan
Paul Bennett

Guests:

Jeremy Schroeder, SEIU Local 880
Rob Kilbury, Illinois Department of Human Services
Jennifer Novak, Illinois Housing Development Authority

Absent:

Pat Comstock, Illinois Health Care Association
Donna Ginther, AARP
Myrtle Klauer, Illinois Council on Long Term Care

SUMMARY:

Director Johnson welcomed members to the meeting. Director Johnson verified participants received all the meeting materials.

Department Updates

Approve July Executive Committee Minutes

Jonathan Lavin moved to approve the minutes. Flora Johnson seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Department Updates

Illinois Department of Public Health — Enrique Unanue reported on Public Act 95-0120 regarding background checks. IDPH is working on regulations and should have them to JCAR next month.

IDPH has been working on a three year pilot project with the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid to run a background check program for direct access workers in a ten county area. Most counties are on the border of Illinois. CMS is paying for the federal portion of the background checks for all direct access workers. IDPH has found 2% of all identified individuals in the background check that have positive hits are across the border. Of the entire labor force, 2% come from other states. The pilot project has been very successful and is being studied by CMS. There are three bills in DC that have been introduced and take elements of the program to create a national background check.

Enrique explained before the pilot project a background check was run with the name and social security number. Some individuals may use different social security numbers and it was difficult to identify quickly if they had convictions on their record. The new process used in the pilot project is totally automated. An electronic fingerprint is used so there is not the incongruity that comes with the name based system. Within two days, IDPH is able to have the actual criminal history, if there is one, which is thorough and accurate. IDPH has found they are picking up about 30% more offenders. This pilot project does not include homemakers but new legislation does. IDPH is doing statewide training on the pilot project.

Enrique Unanue reported he will be working with the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Architecture, to plan for a masters program in healthcare architecture.

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services — Kelly Cunningham reported the SLF's will be subject to the non emergency transportation services prior approval requirement which goes into effect October 1. All other Medicaid programs are already subject to prior approval. This is the first time long term care has been subject to this requirement. First Transit is the vendor for this program and is conducting training around the state and working with long term care facilities and educating facilities how to access system.

Kelly provided an update on the Disease Management Program operated by Your Healthcare Plus. Your Healthcare Plus is beginning to expand efforts into long term care facilities around the state through a contract with the Enhanced Care Initiative working with NP Care. The program which began in May and has had success getting NP Care into several facilities in Chicago is now expanding into the suburbs and downstate.

The Department's SLF initiative has 81 operational facilities around the state with another 65 that should be operational within next year to two years.

Department of Human Services — Rob Kilbury reported on the FY 08 budget. The home services budget was cut by the General Assembly \$10 million and the Governor cut an additional \$10 million. The program is down \$20 million total from what DHS estimates the cost of the program to be. The cuts will not affect the personal assistant wage increase that goes into effect this month. Personal assistants will get \$9.35/hour effective August 1. That is a \$35 million increase in the budget. DHS will continue to operate the programs as they are now and will ask the General Assembly for a supplemental appropriation if necessary.

Illinois Housing Development Authority — Jennifer Novak reported IHDA conducted six workshops across the state on the Rental Housing Support Program and may schedule one more. The Governor's Housing Task Force-Supportive Housing Working Group has developed a common definition for "supportive housing". Next steps for the Working Group include determining the estimated number of supportive housing units needed in the State, and recommending actions to reduce or eliminate barriers to supportive housing development.

The State is in the process of updating the Fair Housing Impediments report. IHDA has contracted with University of Illinois-Building Research Council to conduct a survey, literature review, and analysis of fair housing complaints.

The draft 2008-2009 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP), the plan for the states low income housing tax credits, is on IHDA's website (www.ihda.org). The public comment period on the document will start August 31, and end September 21, 2007. A public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2007 at 10:00 am at IHDA's offices, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 7th floor.

IHDA is currently working on the 2007 Interim Progress Report, which covers Comprehensive Housing Plan activities from January to June, 2007; and the Consolidated Plan-2008 Action Plan, which is a HUD-required document estimating State activity from January to December, 2008.

Illinois Department on Aging — Deputy Gelder reported on the budget. The General Assembly sent the Governor a budget with \$25 million less than what was requested in CCP. The Governor cut several hundred thousand in legislative initiatives. In terms of the Community Care Program (CCP) we anticipate we have enough funding to last to the end of spring. The Department does not have any intent to cut back the scope or volume of services and will request a supplemental if necessary. The Department's budget was increased over the FY 07 budget.

The Department is applying for two federal grants, in the areas of nursing home diversion and enhancing consumer direction, through the Administration on Aging and a grant in Alzheimer's best practices using evidence based solutions.

Deputy Gelder reported the state agencies met last week and reviewed the workgroup recommendations. The group is also working on updating the state agencies' accomplishments towards the mandates in the OASA.

Old Business

Money Follows the Person — Kelly Cunningham reported the State Leadership Team met last Wednesday for the first time. The team plans to meet every Wednesday by video conference to work on the Operational Protocol which must be approved by federal CMS. HFS hopes to submit that document in December. The team is also discussing the roles of workgroups to avoid duplication and build on strengths. That was the topic for the first meeting. SB 765 codified major elements of MFP and was signed by the Governor.

Legislation — Deputy Gelder reported the Department is following bills related to long term care reform including HB 652 which passed both chambers but has not been signed yet. It would implement changes to CCP.

HB 809 was signed into law creating P.A. 95-0080. It clarifies the prescreening program and responsibilities of the CCUs, hospitals and nursing facilities.

SB 340 had originally dealt with elder abuse and neglect. It now incorporates new membership procedures for CCPAC. This bill is still awaiting action by the Governor.

SB 390 changes “homemaker” to “home care aide” in the Act on Aging. It was signed by the Governor and is now P.A. 95-0298.

SB 765 was signed by the Governor and creates the Money Follows the Person Implementation Act.

SB 570, P.A. 95-0068, concerns rural adults and the availability of meals, subject to appropriation. The Department will work to identify sources of funding to meet rural nutrition needs of seniors and look at services in CCP.

HB 979 establishes a task force to report to the General Assembly on special needs of older rural residents. The Department will hold hearings on this topic.

HB 517, the Long Term Care Partnership Act, was signed in law and changes the way assets are considered for Medicaid eligibility for individuals who purchase long term care insurance.

SB 591 codifies Comprehensive Care Coordination (CCC). It has not passed out of the GA and is in the Senate.

New Business

Workgroup Objectives for 2008 Report to the GA —Shelly Ebbert reported the goal is have the report to the General Assembly prior to January 1. We hope to distribute the report at the Governor’s Conference in December. The workgroup recommendations were distributed to members prior to the meeting. The executive committee reviewed the workgroup objectives to ensure as a group there is no duplication and to determine if any recommendations should be placed in the overarching recommendations section. The committee also reviewed the recommendations to ensure there is no conflict and answer any questions. Workgroup chairs agreed to take comments back to their workgroups and submit any changes to the Department prior to the September 10th meeting of the full committee.

Draft September OASAC Agenda —Deputy Gelder agreed to hand out a legislative update instead of presenting a report to free up time in the agenda. The workgroup recommendations will be sent to OASAC members in advance and members should have reviewed them before the meeting. The Operations Manual requires the Departments present a report so that item will not be removed from the agenda. The meeting is by video conference with sites in Springfield and Chicago. Darby Anderson will present the executive committee report.

Other Business

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group is sponsoring a conference on rural issues in aging on September 6 and 7. A speaker will be brought in and local experts will also be in attendance. Anyone interested in rural issues is encouraged to attend. The conference will be held in Effingham Illinois.

These minutes were approved on September 24, 2007