



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: June 23, 2008

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

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee Members:

Carol Aronson, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors
Bill Bell, Illinois Department of Public Health
Kelly Cunningham for Theresa Eagleson, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Michael Gelder for Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging
Myrtle Klauer, Illinois Council for Long Term Care
Jonathan Lavin, Age Options, Inc
Phyllis Mitzen, citizen member over the age of 60
Susan Real, family caregiver
Cathy Weightman-Moore, Catholic Charities Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Dave Vinkler, AARP

Department staff:

Michael Gelder
Shelly Ebbert
Jan Cichowlas
Ross Grove
Leann Dolan

Guests:

Jeremy Schroeder, SEIU Local 880
Nancy Nelson, AARP

Absent:

Stephanie Altman, Health and Disability Advocates
Darby Anderson, Addus HealthCare
Dennis Bozzi, Life Services Network
Pat Comstock, Illinois Health Care Association
Flora Johnson, SEIU Local 880

SUMMARY:

Welcome and Introduction

Deputy Gelder opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

Dave Vinkler moved to approve the minutes. Jonathan Lavin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Department Updates

Illinois Department of Public Health — Bill Bell reported the Home Services Home Nursing rules were adopted effective June 5. The rules are now on IDPH's Website along with applications. Associations have planned trainings for the network on the rules. IDPH will be participating. IDPH is preparing to start receiving applications, reviewing them and issuing licenses by September 1. IDPH will be doing this with existing staff. IDPH expects to have 400-500 home service agencies, 200 home nursing agencies and 200 placement agencies.

Nancy Nelson added the Illinois HomeCare Council is conducting five workshops around the state. The calendar and registration is available on its Website.

IDPH has been spending a lot of time working on the flood damage. Nursing homes and hospitals within the flooding area are monitored with daily phone calls. There have not been any evacuations. Several contingency plans have been developed should the need to evacuate arise. Some long term care facilities and one hospital have had an issue with water availability. Bottled water was shipped in and tanker trucks delivered water to allow facilities to continue to operate. IDPH continues to monitor the area along the Mississippi river with concern focused on the levy in the Cahokia area. There are seven nursing homes in that area that would possibly have to be evacuated. Most issues revolve around the availability of drinking water.

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services — Kelly Cunningham reported Supportive Living Facilities (SLF) have not had any flooding related issues. HFS is keeping close touch with the facilities and monitoring situations for flooding.

HFS received comments from federal CMS on the draft Operational Protocol for Money Follows the Person (MFP) in early May. CMS requested clarification in some sections. The rewrite was completed and submitted last week. HFS is hopeful it will be approved and we can move ahead with the program. Federal CMS would like to respond to all states by June 30 to allow for a July 1 start date.

HFS filed emergency rules in January to make changes to the MDS rule that governs the portion of nursing home component in the nursing facility rate system. HFS has been involved in negotiations with JCAR and nursing home associations. The rules were adopted in late May.

Illinois Department on Aging — Deputy Gelder reported the department is working with other agencies on emergency recovery efforts following flooding around the state. The Department will have staff at a new call center that will be available later this week to help residents apply for recovery assistance. There will also be three 1-stop centers set up in affected areas along the rivers. The Department will be participating through the Area Agencies on Aging to locate people to staff the sites which are expected to be open for 2-4 weeks. The Governor is interested in helping residents get their lives back to order as soon as possible.

The Department is also engaged in efforts to comply with HB 4144 which passed and was amendatorily vetoed by the Governor. The bill reflects efforts by OASAC to raise the wages and benefits of home care aides. The Department's appropriation bill includes \$1.70/ hour rate increase for home care aides and \$1.33/ hour for those vendors that offer health insurance to employees and their dependents. The Department continues to work internally, with the Governor's office and with SEIU to file rules to have the rate increases take effect July 1.

The Department continues to await action by the Governor on the appropriation bills passed by the General Assembly. They have not been sent to the Governor's office yet.

Old Business

Operations Manual — Shelly Ebbert reported on the recommendations by Jonathan Lavin and Stephanie Altman. The Department's legal counsel looked at the issue of electronic voting following a meeting. The Operations Manual says OASAC will follow Robert's Rules of Order. OASAC is also subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Operations Manual says the committee can vote on items already on the agenda. If something comes up during the meeting, the vote should be taken in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. The Department's legal counsel recommended against any electronic voting. If we did do electronic voting, discussion would not be allowed, members could only vote yes or no by email..

The Chair has discretion to recognize a motion to table an item until the next meeting if there is reluctance to vote immediately. The Department does not recommend amending the Operations Manual. This was acceptable to the executive committee.

Benchmarks — Shelly Ebbert reported on progress identifying benchmarks. It was. The interagency group met last Monday to review data and .agreed to continue with five of the six benchmarks.

Deputy Gelder explained the group has been discussing the sources of data necessary to add value to the benchmarks. It was decided that additional work was needed in establishing baseline data.

Jan Chichowlas reported she continues to work with IDPH on information needed for benchmarks. She is also working with the Illinois Foundation for Quality Healthcare to look at Medicare quality improvement and helping nursing homes improve on pressure, restraint reduction, pain management and depression. Casper is an instrument that could help with quality in nursing homes, based on the MDS. It is a CMS system for government access only. It is possible the department could have access.

Shelly reported the finance workgroup has been asked to review the Primer for any possible benchmarks that should come out of that document. The first benchmark looks at the percentage of long term care dollars spent on institutional care compared to home and community based services.

The second benchmark is about the levels of care of individuals in nursing homes. We have talked about using a report from the Medicare quality group and some information from MFP.

The third benchmark is specific to CCP. We are going to look at DON scores at admission to nursing homes and SLFs.

The fourth benchmark concerns having the needed amount of nursing home beds in the right areas. IDPH is putting together information for the Nursing Home Conversion workgroup and they will be reviewing that information tomorrow.

The fifth benchmark relates to quality. Jan has talked to the Illinois Foundation regarding health care. We are looking at studies done by HFS that sample Medicaid waiver participants. It is possible we can use participant survey information. The Finance workgroup may be asked to look at benchmark number 1 and have a more extended conversation of data sources and their experience with developing the primer. The workgroups working on benchmarks specifically are Finance and Conversion. More information will be available by the next meeting.

Shelly explained the benchmarks may be assigned to workgroups to work on once we have more data. It makes sense for the Services workgroup to work on quality issues but that benchmark still needs to be fine tuned.

Shelly explained the Department has the ability to look at DON scores over time for benchmark data. Kelly Cunningham added residents of SLFs have quarterly assessments using another tool that can be looked at over time as well as the DON, which is administered at the time of admission.

New Business

Elder Economic Security Initiative — Deputy Gelder reported this topic is on the agenda as a result of the last full committee meeting. The group working on this issue organized through the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group presented its findings at a press conference and aging network briefing earlier today.

The report includes county by county statistics based on housing, health care, food and other necessary costs of living. The economic security index figure is much higher than the poverty level.

There are two issues to discuss. The first, what can OASAC do. Martha Holstein asked that members share the report with others, invite a speaker to come to other associations, and also complete the endorsement form.

The second issue is to turn the attention to policy recommendations for those that pertain to what we discuss at OASAC.

Martha revised the policy recommendations that were discussed at the OASAC meeting based on comments received. The recommendations could be revised further. Bob Gallo presented at the meeting earlier today and included what AARP is doing on the issue.

Phyllis recommended the report be distributed to the executive committee for discussion at the next meeting. There could be potential action as a result of the discussion.

Jonathan Lavin requested someone at the Department look at one of the recommendations that includes adjusting the CCP sliding scale co payment formula to represent the more realistic cost of living by replacing the poverty level with elder economic security initiative.

Deputy Gelder responded the simplicity of the poverty level has contributed to its longevity. The simple number overlooks variation in which people live lives and incur costs. Another issue is if we were to use a higher level in co payment fees, we would be collecting less in co payments.

Phyllis Mitzen added that some people choose not to participate in CCP because of co-pays.

Jonathan Lavin asked that for the next meeting, the departments review the document on the EESI and review necessary data to contribute towards further discussion.

Phyllis Mitzen explained the EESI has been rolled out in four states so far. Massachusetts looked at our model and the waiver program. They moved their asset level up to \$10,000 based on this information from Illinois.

The Department will request a final copy of the EESI report and distribute it electronically to executive committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

Workgroup Work Plans and Expectations — Shelly Ebbert discussed that with respect to benchmarks, the department has not reviewed the timeframes. That information will be available at the next meeting.

Deputy Gelder said the director, Shelly and he plan to meet with the chairs of each of the workgroups in the next two months to discuss the benchmarks and provide direction for this year's report.

Workgroup Updates

Services Expansion — Dave Vinkler reported the workgroup met earlier today and discussed prioritizing goals. The next meeting will focus on narrowing the focus to a few recommendations for legislative issues. The last few meetings have focused on elder abuse and self neglect. Today the focus was on Comprehensive Care Coordination (CCC).

Carol Aronson added Susan Real presented a very thorough discussion of work of the Outcomes Measurement Committee and the CCC tool. She also discussed long range goals of outcomes to move CCUs

into coordination across settings with the tool being one of the things that needs to be in place to move onto that.

Finance — Jan Cichowlas reported the workgroup has not had a meeting but is having discussions through e mail on benchmarks. The workgroup is considering comparing Medicaid dollars by state.

Shelly Ebbert reported she intends to see if the workgroup can get together again with participation from her or Deputy Gelder.

Myrtle Klauer added when comparing people receiving services in the community, if they are on welfare that should be counted as well. Long term care covers food, shelter, etc. If they are getting home delivered meals and welfare, all of that should be totaled.

Kelly Cunningham agreed the numbers HFS is working on, it is important to include ancillary costs in the community as well as in a nursing home to have the most complete apples to apples profile.

Workforce/Caregiver — Susan Real reported the workgroup meets next on August 11. Susan asked for any update on the working caregiver conference that was scheduled for December.

Deputy Gelder explained the Department is interested in pursuing the conference as it is an item in the report to the General Assembly. There has been some difficulty arranging the conference in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Aging at the same location, date and time and space available. He offered to continue to move forward with having the conference in December if the space and time available is acceptable to the workgroup. The department can offer assistance in the areas of including information in the conference materials and publicity and using existing mailing lists to publicize the event.

Deputy Gelder offered to have a conference call with the workgroup to clarify what is available for the working caregivers conference. Susan Real added the momentum is there for the conference and the workgroup would like to proceed but needs the department's support.

Coordinated Point of Entry — Jonathan Lavin reported the workgroup has put together a survey that has been tested and received positive response. The workgroup would like to get that information in a survey monkey instrument and distribute it further. Jon needs to discuss this with Shelly Ebbert in terms of formatting.

The workgroup had a conference call with the Lewin Group that is the national TA provider for ADRCs. They offered insight into approaches and systems as best practices across country.

Nursing Home Conversion — Phyllis Mitzen reported the workgroup is meeting at the Illinois Health Care Association tomorrow and will have presentations on quality in nursing homes. The workgroup will have reports on recommendations on reports for conversion and bed reduction from Maria Schmidt and Bill Dart. The workgroup will also look at the survey and inventory list distributed by the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to see what is being provided in the community and where it is. The workgroup wants nursing homes to think the survey is mandatory but it is not their annual survey, it was put together by the workgroup.

Announcements

Shelly asked if anyone has submitted to present at the **Governor's Conference on Aging**. There is a place being held for a benchmark discussion at the conference. The deadline to submit for a session has passed but Shelly could assist in submitting this week if there is interest.

Shelly Ebbert also reported the **NAPSA Conference** is being held in Chicago on August 25-30. This is a national conference the department is working on with the national organization and will take the place of the annual Elder Rights Conference.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.