



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 24, 2015 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Minutes approved 11/16/15)

Locations:

Illinois Department on Aging, 160 N. LaSalle St., 7th floor, Chicago

Illinois Department on Aging (at the DNR bldg.), One Natural Resources Way, Springfield

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee Members

Darby Anderson – Addus HealthCare

Carol Aronson- Shawnee Alliance for Seniors

June Benedick – Parish Nurse

Theresa Collins (for Jonathan Becker) –Senior Services Plus

Dr. Thomas Cornwell – HomeCare Physicians

Cindy Cunningham – Illinois Adult Day Service Association

Kelly Fischer – Journey Care Hospice

Jan Grimes – Illinois HomeCare and Hospice Council

Sherry Barter Hamlin – River-to-River Residential Corporation

Lori Hendren – AARP

Lucia West Jones (for Jonathan Lavin) – I4A

Myrtle Klauer – Illinois Council on Long Term Care

Phyllis Mitzen – Center for Long Term Care Reform

Susan Real – Caregiver – East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Ram Villivalam (for Terri Harkin) – SEIU Health Care – Illinois and Indiana

Ex-officio Committee Members:

Jennifer Reif, Acting Director – Department on Aging

Paul Bennett (for Kelly Cunningham) – Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Jennifer Chan (for Megan Spitz) – Illinois Housing Development Authority

Doree Vetter – Department of Veterans Affairs

Guests:

Renae Alvarez – Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

Randy Carey-Walden – Molina Healthcare

Sylvia Riperton-Lewis – Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Sharon Post – Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

Department on Aging staff

Jodi Becker, Alex Burke, Betsy Creamer, John Eckert, Mary Mayes, Lora McCurdy, Brad Rightnowar

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Committee Members

Jennifer Belkov- Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter

Jean Bohnhoff- Effingham County Committee on Aging

Andy Chusid – Health Care Council of Illinois

Frank Daigh – Citizen Member over the age of 60

Robyn Golden – Rush University Medical Center

Mike Hughes – Lifescape Community Services

Susan Hughes – UIC Community Health Sciences School of Public Health

Michael Koronkowski – UIC College of Pharmacy

Dave Lowitzki – SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana
Samantha Olds Frey – Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans
Patricia O’Dea-Evans – A Silver Connection
Geraldine Simmons - Geraldine C. Simmons Attorney at Law
Jason Speaks – Leading Age Illinois
Cathy Weightman-Moore – Regional Ombudsman
Ancy Zacharia – Home Care Physicians

Ex-officio – Committee Members not in attendance:

Debra Bryars – Department of Public Health
Jamie Freshi – State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Gail Hedges – Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Linda Gonulsen – Department of Human Services
Representative – Governor’s office

Introductions and Welcome of New Members:

Acting Director Jennifer Reif welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced new member Sherry Barter Hamlin from River-to-River Residential Corporation who will be participating under the Nursing Home or Assisted Living Establishments role on OASAC. Hamlin gave a brief description of herself and the services provided by River-to-River. It was also noted that Lori Hendren from AARP was attending her first meeting as a member of OASAC.

Approve minutes of Full OASAC Meeting:

After review by members, Phillis Mitzen moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting. Carol Aronson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Annual Ethics Training:

John Eckert noted that the mandated annual Ethics training packet would be sent to members after the meeting. Upon completion of the training, members are required to send an original signed Acknowledgement of Participation to the Department. Members were asked to send the completed forms within two weeks to ensure OASAC compliance with the training requirement.

Update on Waiver Renewal:

Lora McCurdy noted that legislation was introduced to maintain the DON score at 29 (HB 2482). The State issued a Public Notice regarding the proposed increase in the DON score and over 1,000 comments were received. It was noted that comments would be reviewed “jointly” by the state agencies impacted by the possible changes and they are looking at all options. Paul Bennett (HFS) noted that the Waiver renewal will require an adjustment of the Level of Care (LOC) to be equal to the LOC for nursing facilities. Sherry Barter Hamlin noted that if the DON score is raised that 10 of the residents she serves will have to move to a nursing facility. Lori Hendren asked how the state was going to respond to the comments and McCurdy indicated that the responses would be based on identifying consistent themes and responding to those themes. Carol Aronson noted that when they score the DON it goes up when an individual is going to a nursing facility because they don’t score the B-side of the DON. Bennett noted that this was a different interpretation of scoring the DON. McCurdy concluded that they are waiting on the outcome of the action on HB 2482 and will share further communication with the Committee as the Department learns more.

Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Updates:

McCurdy noted that the BIP initiatives are moving forward. The Helpline has been expanded, including seven new staff and a new supervisor. The new staff is currently undergoing extensive cross-training on programs and policies. The Department continues its dialog on the development of the Universal Assessment Tool (UAT) with HFS, DHS and the Governor’s office. The plan is to pilot the tools, beginning with the Level I screen. The Level I pilot was planned for mid-September but has been postponed. Susan Real asked when the training is going to occur and it was noted that it had been pushed back to November.

McCurdy indicated that the Department, in cooperation with other state agencies and the Lewin Group (consultants) has been conducting No Wrong Door (NWD) listening sessions: One in Mt. Vernon, one in Peoria and two in Chicago. They have received valuable feedback on the strengths of the current network of agencies and how to improve a NWD system. It was noted that the Department had requested an extension with federal CMS on the NWD grant in an effort to increase the opportunity to coordinate a more effective system and prepare the NWD Plan.

Betsy Creamer discussed the BIP-funded Nursing Home Diversion grant activities. Creamer noted that she took over the management of the grant about eight months ago, following the departure of Nyle Robinson. The grant is for \$5 mil. and has been extended through September, 2016. She referred members to the handouts provided and discussed several slides from the PowerPoint. There are 14 agencies involved as lead agencies; including Care Coordination Units, Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living and Mental Health Centers. Seven agencies were involved in the first round of grant awards and seven agencies were recently added to second round of grant awards. Creamer noted that there are 316 individuals who are enrolled and 150 who elected not to enroll. The primary goal of the grant is to improve collaboration between AAAs, CILs and Mental Health Centers, and hospital discharge staff and deflect more individuals from entering long term care facilities from hospitals. Participants receive Options Counseling prior to discharge from the hospital and after moving home receive a quick follow-up and monthly contact. Carol Aronson noted the limits to working with Mental Health providers due to limited or no services available in certain areas of the state. Susan Real added that the troubleshooting calls hosted by Lewin have been helpful and that this initiative lines up with OASAC's strategic goals. A discussion on how this initiative differs from Choices for Care followed. Creamer noted that staff on this grant can begin person-centered-planning and pre-discharge intervention. A final challenge noted was that ongoing training of hospital staff is required due to high turnover.

Managed Care Updates:

Sylvia Riperton-Lewis from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services gave an update on how Managed Care Organizations are being monitored. She referred to the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) PowerPoint which provides an overview of how the Integrated Care Program (ICP) MCOs are complying with federal CMS HCBS performance measures (including metrics and outcomes). Performance measures included conducting 266 Personal Assistant evaluations and conducting extensive case reviews. Riperton-Lewis noted that the report showed a high level of compliance by the MCOs. Cindy Cunningham noted that completing performance measures on paper makes it easier to show compliance versus actually meeting with staff and participants. Thomas Cornwell asked if the performance standards were in place prior to them being used for the MCOs and Riperton-Lewis noted that these are core CMS waiver standards. McCurdy noted that UIC is conducting an independent evaluation of the ICG in consultation with HSAG, HFS and the MCOs. A question was asked regarding whether monitoring is being done to determine how long someone stays out of a nursing facility after a transition to the community but this has yet to be studied. Cornwell asked if the MCOs were doing a better job of providing HCBS than the fee-for-service model. Riperton-Lewis indicated that that determination has not been made. McCurdy asked if HFS has any plans to expand MCOs in the state and it was noted that Lauren Tomko (HFS) would be best suited to answer that question. Phyllis Mitzen noted that further study should be required to determine if MCP participants are getting the services they need and/or are there LTSS services they are not receiving.

Legislative Updates:

Alex Burke, the Governor's Legislative Liaison to the Department on Aging, distributed a handout with 11 bills from the 99th General Assembly that had recently been passed in to Public Acts. He noted that the new Public Acts will be posted on the Department's web site.

Budget Updates and discussion on Impact of Budget Impasse:

Acting Director Reif indicated that Jodi Becker, the Department's newly-appointed CFO, was unable to participate at today's meeting due to the budget office meeting with auditors at this time. She did note that SB 2402 had been filed with the Comptroller. This would allow the state to move federal funds to AAAs with September 10th as the prospective timeline. Reif was not able to provide any additional information on the status of the FY '16 budget.

A discussion followed regarding the negative effects the FY '16 budget impasse was having on service delivery for seniors in the state. Reif noted that the Department has regular communication with the Governor's office about its impact. Cindy Cunningham indicated that an Adult Day Services provider that serves primarily Russian-speaking seniors will have to close in September due to lack of funding. Reif indicated that the Department is doing its best to assist agencies that are in danger of closing or reducing services. She indicated that during this difficult period, the Department is trying to be as transparent as possible and stressed the importance of open communication between all agencies serving seniors with the Department. Everyone was encouraged to contact the Department with any updates on potential closures or reduction in service hours.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.