
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

June 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Margaret Gerundo-Murkette, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS); Amy Porter, (DORS); Jessica Rival, Office of Health Strategy (OHS); Michael Santoro, Department of Housing (DOH); Representative Jonathan Steinberg

Others Present: Melissa Morton, (OPM); Kim Hriceniak Department of Public Health (for Donna Ortelte)

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Amy Porter and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

D. Guttchen acknowledged the passing of Therese Nadeau. He recognized her as a great advocate and educator whose loss will be felt throughout the disability community. **Commissioner Amy Porter** added that Therese had an incredible impact on the disability community and personal assistance services and use of service dogs in particular. Commissioner Ported noted that Therese wrote a very useful and popular book titled "Sassy Goes To Work" about service dogs.

D. Guttchen informed members that with legislative session just ending on June 5th the current version of the legislative update does not include any budget related items because staff are in the process of analyzing the budget and awaiting detail from the Office of Fiscal Analysis and budget division of OPM. Additionally, the budget has not been signed by the Governor. Therefore, an addendum to the legislative update will be sent out over the summer after the budget has been signed and analyzed. D. Guttchen also noted that the bills reflected in the update have not yet been signed by the Governor and an updated version of document will also be circulated to members once the bills have been signed.

Melissa Morton provided a brief update highlighting legislation passed during the 2019 legislative session related to the work of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee and objectives of the 2019 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan. Of the bills reviewed, H.B. 7163 was highlighted as it has direct impact on Planning Committee members from the Department of Rehabilitation Services. The bill among other things, changes the agency name to the Department of Aging and Disability Services effective October 1, 2019. **Commissioner Porter** added that she is excited about the change as it more accurately reflects what the agency does since its merger with the State Department on Aging. The goal was to develop a name that allowed people to easily find the agency and recognize what they do for the people of the state.

D. Guttchen highlighted that the adopted State budget increases funding for the Assisted Living Demonstration program, a multi-state agency project that has been successful in keeping people in the community for 15 years through the CT Home Care Program for Elders. D. Guttchen expressed his gratitude to the legislature and Governor's office for the significant increase in funding over each year of the biennium that will allow the Demonstration project to continue. **Michael Santoro** echoed David's words of thanks to the legislature and Governor's office and noted that the Assisted Living Demonstration is a program where a small investment yields large savings to the State.

Representative Steinberg noted that Section 305 of the recently passed biennium budget prohibits home care agencies from utilizing non-compete clauses and that there are some organizations asking the Governor to line-item veto Section 305. Representative Steinberg wanted to know whether any of the Planning Committee members had a position on this issue. D. Guttchen noted that the Office of Policy and Management has no position on the matter since it's under review by the Governor's Office. Commissioner Porter echoed D. Guttchen's statement.

Margaret Gerundo-Murkette shared that DORS received two grants: (1) a two-year Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) No Wrong Door Business Case Development grant from the Administration on Living (ACL) to demonstrate the positive return on investment for the Veteran Directed Home and Community Services Program and expanded community services. It expands the relationship between the Veterans Administration and the Area Agencies on Aging to provide in-home assessments for veterans; (2) a Technical Assistance grant from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems. This is a large multi-agency collaboration led by DORS that allows Connecticut to receive support with the review of person-centered trainings utilized across the state in order with the goal of having a set of core competencies for person-centered practices training curriculum that can be used across the Long-Term Services and Supports system.

Commissioner Porter asked State Long Term Care Ombudsman **Mairead Painter** to come forward with an announcement. M. Painter shared that June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. There is a website where agencies can advertise their events. M. Painter encouraged people to add their events and view ones to attend.

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

None

Other Business

None

Meeting Schedule for 2019

Tues., September 10th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A – LOB

Tues., December 10th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A – LOB

Adjournment

D. Guttchen requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Amy Porter and passed unanimously by the Committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.