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# Long-Term Care Planning Committee

## September 10, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Margaret Gerundo-Murkette, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS); Kelly Kendall, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Erin Leavitt-Smith, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Jessica Rival, Office of Health Strategy (OHS); Laura Watson, Department of Housing (DOH)

**Others Present:** Melissa Morton, (OPM)

#### Review and Approval of Minutes

**David Guttchen** called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

**D. Guttchen** requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2019 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Donna Ortelle, seconded by Kathy Bruni and passed by the Committee members. Erin Leavitt-Smith abstained.

#### Updates and Announcements

**Margaret Gerundo-Murkette** shared three updates: (1) As of October 1, 2019 the new name of the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) will be Aging and Disability Services to more accurately reflect the core services of the Department since the State Department on Aging and DORS merger. (2) The State Unit on Aging (SUA) is embarking on the year-long planning process to develop the next State Plan on Aging for Connecticut. This three-year plan must be submitted to the federal Administration for Community Living and will be effective on October 1, 2020. (3) On October 10, 2019 the CT Elder Justice Coalition and the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman will be hosting a joint Voices United Symposium.

**Kelly Kendall** announced that DDS began implementing a specialized services Medicaid amendment on February 1, 2019 that allows day supports, such as behavioral health, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy to be provided in the community for DDS consumers residing in nursing homes. To date, approximately 1/3 of the DDS population in a nursing home placement has been served through this initiative.

#### DSS Long-Term Services and Supports Rebalancing Update

**Dawn Lambert**, Co-Leader of the Department of Social Services (DSS), Community Options Unit, introduced various staff to [present on the LTC rebalancing projects](#) currently underway at DSS.

- Update on DSS Rebalancing Initiatives, Highlights:
  - (a) Money Follows The Person (MFP): A demonstration grant issued by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to transition individuals out of nursing homes and back to the community. To date, 5,187 individuals have transitioned through the demonstration program. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018, 53% of CT's Medicaid long-term care expenditures were on home community-based services. David Guttchen highlighted that SFY 2018 marks

- the first time since the State started tracking rebalancing numbers in 2007 that a higher percentage of Medicaid long-term care spending went towards home care vs. institutional care. In the first quarter of 2018, 58% of hospital discharges were to home and community-based care vs. a skilled nursing facility. This is a change from 2007 when only 47% of hospital discharges were to community-based care. The statistic DSS is most proud of is that 78% of MFP participants report being happy with their lives. This is compared to the baseline report prior to intervention that indicated 60% of individuals being happy with the way they live their lives.
- (b) Community First Choice (CFC): A self-directed Medicaid option that provides equal access to home and community-based services across the Medicaid program. Since CFC began in July, 2015, 8,626 applications have been received. There are 2,785 active CFC participants, 5,291 cases recommended for closure, and 883 pending assignment to the field. There is no “wait list” for CFC but there is a wait for assessment. Currently there are 2,349 participants assigned to be assessed. DSS staff highlighted that each additional CFC participant accessing services grows the home care workforce by a 2:1 ratio.
  - (c) Universal Assessment (UA): The UA is being implemented across Medicaid programs to inform a participant’s Level of Care and Level of Need. Currently, DSS, in coordination with the UConn Center on Aging, is in the early stages of implementing a quality management plan that is focusing on: (1) the training and continued education of assessors, and (2) data reliability and accuracy. Additionally, a new Level of Care screening tool will launch in 2019. It is a shorter tool designed to provide an initial Level of Care determination prior to conducting the full UA. Council members asked questions about the goal of the shorter assessment tool and if anything like this has ever been used with the waiver population. DSS staff clarified the process for using the shorter UA, the target population for utilization, and how that will inform the need to implement the longer UA. Kathy Bruni, DSS, shared that a pre-screen to determine Level of Need has always been used across DSS waivers before sending staff out to do an in-person assessment.
  - (d) My Place CT: Myplacect.org continues to serve as the state’s virtual No Wrong Door (NWD). DSS Consultant, Julie-Evans-Starr, reviewed the My Place CT web site redesign and areas of improved organization and functionality. Work is also continuing to improve caringcareer.org so that more workers will want to utilize the site. It is now merged with My Place CT rather than being its own independent web link. It should be ready for roll-out in the next two months. David Guttchen made the suggestion that the Partnership for Long-Term Care be listed on the page titled “Planning for Your Future.”
  - (e) My Care Options: A new long-term services and supports (LTSS) strategy that uses predictive methodology to support the discharge of people from nursing homes to the community. It is part of Governor Lamont’s new initiatives for LTSS in CT. The goals of My Care Options are to: (1) provide information on the myriad of LTSS available through the Medicaid program and allow potential individuals to make an informed decision about how and where to receive care; and (2) create a support path to Medicaid while accessing home and community-based services, similar to what is used for access to nursing homes now. The initial target population for this initiative will be individuals who are active on the Medicare Savings Programs who have recently paid nursing facility claims. The program is using various predictors of the need for nursing home care and a variety participant benefits. My Care Options is set to launch in October/November 2019.
  - (f) Smart Home Technology: DSS is exploring the use of technology to create smart homes to address barriers to community living for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. DSS is partnering with numerous organizations on this initiative including the

Alzheimer's Association. David Guttchen noted that DDS is developing an Assistive Technology First initiative and suggested that DSS reach out to include the appropriate DDS staff partners on the Smart Home project.

### **Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments**

No comments from Council members.

**David Guttchen** shared that after a hiatus, Christy Kovel from the Alzheimer's Association has partnered with the Commission on Woman, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity to reenergize the Advisory Council. The first meeting will be on September 25, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building. David noted that it is important to the Planning Committee that the Advisory Committee continue to meet because they are a key partner for the development of the Planning Committee's three-year Long-Term Services and Supports Plan.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Meeting Schedule for 2019**

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

### **Adjournment**

D. Guttchen requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented by Erin Leavitt-Smith, seconded by Donna Ortelle and passed unanimously by the Committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 A.M.