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# Long-Term Care Planning Committee

## June 9, 2015

### Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Kathy Bruni, Department of Social Services (DSS); Jenifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Siobhan Morgan, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Department on Aging (SDA); Susan Newton, Department of Public Health (DPH); Amy Porter, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS);

**Others Present:** Julie Evans-Starr Commission on Aging (COA); Melissa Morton, (OPM)

#### Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2014 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Commissioner Amy Porter, seconded by Kathy Bruni and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

#### Updates and Announcements

**New OPM Staff:** D. Guttchen introduced Melissa Morton as the new Planning Analyst at OPM. D. Guttchen reminded the Committee of Barbara Parks Wolf retirement in February, 2015 and acknowledged her contributions to OPM and the Committee. D. Guttchen informed the Committee that M. Morton will be assuming Barbara's role as it relates to staffing the Committee and working on the Long Term Care Plan development and updates.

**Legislative Update:** M. Morton reviewed long term services and supports related legislation that passed in the 2015 session. D. Guttchen commented that this is a brief update because the Legislature will have to go back into Special Session sometime in June to vote on the budget implementer bill. The bill in its current form is on the Connecticut General Assembly web site as HB 7062.

**2013 LTC Plan Status Report:** D. Guttchen informed the Committee that the third and final Status Report for the 2013 LTC Services and Supports Plan is still in draft form since there are some agencies who have yet to report their updates and additional information needs to be included once the budget implementer bill is passed. Once the Status Report is complete, OPM will distribute it to Committee members for final review and comment. D. Guttchen thanked all of the Committee members who already submitted updates. This report will serve as the final Status Report for the LTC Services and Supports plan.

**Process for the 2016 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan:** D. Guttchen discussed the development of the next three-year Plan. Discussions have already begun with the Long-Term Care Advisory Council regarding the Plan process and how best to approach it this time. The Planning Committee and Advisory Council members will be asked to provide input for the Plan recommendations this summer. It is likely that the criteria for recommendations will be the same as they were for the last Plan in an attempt to develop a focused list of recommendations that can be implemented during the three year period of the Plan. OPM and staff from the Commission on Aging are scheduled to meet on June 17, 2015 to discuss additional process details.

**Increase in CT Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) Cost Sharing Amount:** Kathy Bruni announced that the biennium budget increased the CHCPE cost sharing amounts for State-funded clients from 7% to 9%. CHCPE clients who reside in one of the four Assisted Living Demonstration communities are exempt from the cost sharing requirements.

**Freeze to CHCPE Category 1:** K. Bruni announced that in the new biennium budget intake for Category 1 of the CHCPE has been frozen for two years. The draft budget implementer bill includes an exemption for the Assisted Living Demonstration communities from the Category 1 freeze but that exemption won't be official unless it's included in the budget implementer bill that is passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

**2015 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA):** Margy Gerundo-Murkette informed the group that every ten years the White House sponsors a Conference on Aging. The last conference was held in 2005, therefore 2015 is the year of the next WHCoA. As part of this national event, the State Department on Aging and the Legislative Committee on Aging co-sponsored a Listening Session on May 5, 2015 to inform Connecticut's contribution to the WHCoA. Minutes and comments from the listening session will be posted to the SDA web site in the near future. M. Gerundo-Murkette also announced that the actual WHCoA event will take place in Washington DC on July 13, 2015 and will stream live via the internet if people are interested in watching it. Long Term Services and Supports is a topic that will covered at the conference and a policy brief on the subject has been released and can be viewed at <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/blog/policy/post/long-term-services-and-supports>

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day:** Nancy Shaffer, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, announced that June 15<sup>th</sup> is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Coalition for Elder Justice will be kicking off a project that day asking people to comment on elder abuse via means such as social media. The Elder Justice Coalition will then put a collage together. More information on this event will soon be posted on the SDA website [www.ct.gov/agingservices](http://www.ct.gov/agingservices). Additionally, Commissioner Elizabeth Ritter will be attending a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event in Washington DC.

**CEAN End of Session Wrap-Up:** Julie Evans-Starr reported that the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN) will be holding its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual legislative wrap-up on June 25, 2015 10:00 – 12:00 at the LOB Room 2A. RSVP by e-mailing [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov) or by calling 860-240-5200.

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

J. Evans-Starr, Commission on Aging (COA), reported that the next Long-Term Care Council meeting will be held June 15, 2015 at the LOB. The date was changed to accommodate the end of the Legislative Session. At the Advisory Committee's request, Dawn Lambert, Department of Social Services (DSS), will be presenting on the rebalancing initiatives. CT-N has expressed interest in covering this meeting.

J. Starr also posed questions to Committee Members:

**What is the Status of funding for the Gatekeeper program?** Jennifer Glick reported that the Gatekeeper program received a 10% cut in the recently passed budget. DHMAS plans to keep the contract for the Gatekeeper program in place through 2017 but what effect the 10% cut will have on that contract or program operations is not known as this time. J. Glick gave a brief overview of the Gatekeeper program and noted that a high number of people identified through the program get referred to the CT Home Care Program for Elders.

**Has there been any movement on legislation regarding home modification?** Commissioner Porter responded that legislation regarding home modifications did not pass during this past legislative session and she has not been informed of any other movement on the matter. J. Evans-Starr stated that there may be language in the budget implementer bill.

### **Other Business**

No other business was raised.

### **Meeting Schedule for 2015**

Tues., September 15th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB  
Tues., December 8th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.