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# Long-Term Care Planning Committee

## June 7, 2016

### Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA); Jennifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Department on Aging (SDA); Donna Ortelle, Department of Public Health (DPH); Amy Porter, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS); Robert Smith, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Kathy Bruni (DSS); Michael Santoro (DOH)

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

#### 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 September 15, 2015 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Beth Leslie, seconded by Donna Ortelle and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

#### Updates and Announcements

**Special Acknowledgements:** David Guttchen acknowledged a few individuals who have been instrumental to the work of the Planning Committee and are leaving state service as of June 30, 2016.

- **Jennifer Glick, DMHAS:** D. Guttchen announced that Ms. Glick will be retiring and thanked her for all the fine work she did with the Committee since its inception in the 1990's.
- **Julie Evans-Starr and Deborah Mignault from the Commission on Aging:** D. Guttchen acknowledged the support and partnership that Ms. Evans-Starr and Ms. Mignault have provided to the Planning Committee. He expressed his gratitude for the large role that the LTC Advisory Council, chaired by Ms. Evans-Starr, has played in the development of the state's Long-Term Services and Supports Plan over the years. The Commission on Aging is being merged with two other Commissions effective July 1, 2016. Therefore, Ms. Evans-Starr and Ms. Mignault will be leaving state service at the end of June.

**2016 Legislative Update:** D. Guttchen provided an overview of legislation passed during the 2016 legislative session that affects Connecticut's system of long-term services and supports. Of special significance to the Planning Committee is *Special Session Public Act 16-3 (as amended by Senate Amendment A (S.B. 502)) – An Act Concerning Revenue And Other Items To Implement The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2017*. Section 129 which establishes a 63 member Commission on Women, Children and Seniors and consolidates and replaces the following three Commissions (1) The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; (2) the Commission on Children; and (3) the Commission on Aging. Members of the aforementioned Commissions who were appointed prior to July 1, 2016 and whose terms will extend beyond July 1, 2016 are automatically appointed to serve on the new Commission on Women, Children and Seniors. This consolidation of Commissions affects the Planning Committee since the Commission on Aging had chaired the Long-Term Care Advisory Council

and, therefore, a new Chair will need to be identified for the Advisory Council. Planning Committee members were invited to elaborate on any of the legislation.

See the attached to view the complete legislative summary.



Long Term Services  
and Support Legisla

**Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy** presented on *Public Act 16-66 An Act Concerning Various revisions to the Public Health Statutes* that privatizes the majority of the Office of Protection and Advocacy functions effective July 1, 2017. The Governor, no later than July 1, 2017, will designate what non-profit entity will perform the functions of OPA. Ms. Leslie explained that 50 out of 57 of states and territories have their protection and advocacy systems operated by a private non-profit agency. She clarified that the abuse investigation division and fatality review board functions will separate from OPA and move to the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

**2016 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Plan Update:** Melissa Morton gave a brief overview of the goals and recommendations in the 2016-2018 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan. Ms. Morton noted that the two primary goals of the plan remain unchanged since 2007 and that the majority of recommendations centered around the following domains (1) Caregiver Support; (2) Enhancing the state's No Wrong Door system; (3) Workforce Development; (4) Housing; and (5) Transportation. Attached is a summary of the plan that was distributed at the meeting. Ms. Morton informed members that the [complete plan](#) was submitted to Governor in December, 2015 and can be viewed online.

See attached to view the Long-Term Services and Supports Plan Summary.



Balancing the  
System\_2016 Report

**Presentation: Older Adult Behavioral Health Asset Mapping Study:** Jennifer Glick, DMHAS, presented on the results of a year-long study funded by the Department on Aging, designed by the Older Adult Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Workgroup and conducted by the University of Connecticut, Center on Aging. The study identified service assets and gaps in the behavioral health system for Connecticut's older adult population (ages 55+). The final report also included recommendations for future improvements to the behavioral health system for older adults. Based on the recommendations in the final report, the Older Adult Behavioral Health Workgroup is in the process of a two-month strategic planning process to set its priorities for the next 1-3 years with accompanying action steps.

See attached presentation slides for a complete summary of the presentation



Meeting the Needs  
of Older Adults with

**Presentation: State and Federal Legislative and Regulatory Changes Affecting the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program:** Nancy Shaffer, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, provided an update on state

legislation affecting the Ombudsman program and nursing home residents that passed this session. Summaries of the legislation of can be found in the attached legislative update.

She also informed members that the federal Older American's Act (OAA) was reauthorized by Congress this spring. The OAA funds several home and community-based services for individuals ages 60 and over and creates the State Units on Aging, Areas Agencies on Aging, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and supports elder justice initiatives. The 2016 reauthorization makes the following revisions to the Ombudsman program: (1) Creates more uniformity among programs nationally; (2) Outlines provisions regarding organizational conflict to ensure Ombudsman programs have the authority to act as advocates independent of state administration influence; (3) Requires the Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs to serve all nursing home residents, including those below the age of 60 within available resources; (4) Clarifies the Ombudsman's authority to advocate for residents who are unable to advocate for themselves based on what the Ombudsman believes the individuals' wishes would be could they advocate on their own behalf; and (4) Allows Ombudsman to continue to serve residents, when feasible, as they transition from an institutional setting to the community, however no federal funds may be used for this purpose.

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

None.

#### **Other Business**

Margaret Gerundo-Murkette informed the group that the Department on Aging recently applied for three federal grants: (1) A Chronic Disease Self-Management grant that will expand the already operational evidence-based program designed to reduce hospitalization and institutionalization by educating individuals on how to manage their chronic conditions; (2) A legal services grant that will expand the work of the Elder Justice Coalition; and (3) An Aging and Disability Resource Center grant that will fund further development of person-centered training for home and community based services professionals in Connecticut.

#### **Meeting Schedule for 2016**

Tues., September 13th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

Tues., December 6th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A – LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.