
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

September 13, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA); Erin Leavitt-Smith, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Department on Aging (SDA); Amy Porter, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS); Michael Santoro, Department of Housing (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 June 7, 2016 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Margy Gerundo-Murkette and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

Margy Gerundo-Murkette informed members that the State Department on Aging (SDA) has begun the planning process for the next State Plan on Aging as required by the Older Americans Act. The planning period begins this month and extends through July, 2017. A series of Public Forums, held in conjunction with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), are being held across the state. The schedule of forums can be found on the [SDA website](#). Ms. Gerundo-Murkette also provided an update on several grant applications she mentioned at the June Planning Committee meeting. The SDA was awarded two federal grants: (1) the Legal Resource Center grant; and (2) the Aging and Disability Center grant.

Introduction: New Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS): Steven Hernandez, Executive Director of the CWCS, affirmed the new Commission's commitment to partnering with the LTC Planning Committee and to convening meetings of the LTC Advisory Council. He noted that in these difficult fiscal times for the state, the CWCS wants to work with members of the Planning Committee to move forward the LTC agendas that define the roles of human services agencies and pursue the best means to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities. He acknowledged the work of his predecessors at the former Commission on Aging (COA) and noted that former COA employee Christy Kovel is working at the CWCS and will be serving as the legislative lead on issues pertaining to seniors.

Presentation: Department of Social Services (DSS) LTSS Rebalancing Initiatives Update: Dawn Lambert, DSS, introduced DSS and Mintz +Hoke staff to [present on the LTC rebalancing projects](#) currently underway at DSS.

- Update on DSS Rebalancing Initiatives: Deanna Clark, DSS, provided a brief overview of the following projects:
 - (a) The Testing Experience and Functional tools Grant (TEFT). TEFT has four components including: (1) development of an Experience of Care Survey; (2) testing of the National

- Functional Assessment Standard; (3) development of personal health records; and (4) development of a national electronic long-term services and supports standard.
- (b) Innovation Accelerator Program: A six month technical assistance opportunity designed to help states support individuals served by Medicaid in accessing and retaining stable housing and meaningfully engaging with providers they choose to achieve their health goals.
 - (c) The Balancing Incentive Program (BIP): BIP is federal funding received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for states to increase access to non-institutional long-term services and supports (LTSS). Among the many initiatives occurring through BIP are DSS' investment in the development of the Community First Choice program (a home and community-based service option that supports the highest degree of choice, control and autonomy for consumers through a self-directed model) and to build out and advertise the state's No Wrong Door infrastructure for accessing LTSS through www.myplacect.com and community access points.
 - (d) The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant: A federal grant program designed to provide supportive housing to the highest cost users of Medicaid. DSS hopes to submit a grant proposal in November, 2016.
 - (e) 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. MFP is on track to transition its 4,000th consumer within the next 30 days. Employment will be the main focus of the four remaining years of the demonstration. Additionally, DSS and the Department of Housing (DOH) are partnering on a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 811 grant. Michael Santoro, DOH, informed the group that 150 project-based vouchers have been secured and the first occupant is expected to move in on October 1st. CT will be the 1st grantee to have an occupant. Potential occupants are individuals who are chronically homeless, on MFP or the adult autism waiver.
- Update on My Place CT Media Campaign, Grant Sanders, Mintz + Hoke, provided an overview of the media campaign for My Place CT that launched on September 13th. The campaign includes several methods of outreach including billboards and video and text ads on the Pandora app.

Other Business

David Guttchen made note of a rebalancing summary sheet in member meeting packets.

Meeting Schedule for 2016

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.