
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

September 12, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Paul Chase, *for Kathy Bruni*, Department of Social Services (DSS); 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); Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez, Department of Children and Families (DCF); Robert Smith, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Representative Gary Byron, Ranking Member of the Aging Committee, 27th District.

Others Present: Melissa Morton, (OPM)

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2017 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Robert Smith and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

Margy Gerundo-Murkette provided two updates on behalf of the State Department on Aging (SDA): (1) The SDA State Plan on Aging has been approved by the Administration for Community Living (ACL); and (2) SDA received a \$200,000 grant to continue development of the state's No Wrong Door.

Erin Leavitt-Smith informed the group that the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Senior Outreach program. DMHAS is seeking providers in five regions across the state. There will be a bidder's conference on September 14, 2017 and proposals are due October 17, 2017. The RFP can be accessed on the [DMHAS web site](#).

Robert Smith invited members to attend the one day [Charting the LifeCourse training](#) on September 26, 2017 being held by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) with support from the SDA. Amy Porter, DORS Commissioner, shared that as a result of the DDS presentation on LifeCourse planning at the December, 2016 LTC Planning Committee meeting, DORS integrated select LifeCourse planning tools into their agency's daily practice.

Steven Hernandez announced that the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors will schedule the next Long-Term Care Advisory Committee meeting once the legislature passes a state budget.

State Budget Update: D. Guttchen reported that a state budget has not yet been adopted. Representative Byron added that a budget vote is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Presentation: Department of Social Services (DSS) LTSS Rebalancing Initiatives Update: Dawn Lambert, DSS, 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 4,247 individuals have transitioned. There has been a decline in transitions in the last few quarters and DSS is analyzing data to determine the cause.
- (b) Community First Choice (CFC) and Universal Assessment V.1.2: 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, 4,658 applications have been received resulting in 1,370 care plans being submitted. A CFC online toolkit, allowing participants to create and submit their care plans online, is being piloted and receiving positive user feedback. The Universal Assessment tool was recently revised and went live on August 7, 2017.
- (c) The No Wrong Door (NWD): As part of the NWD, DSS launched the Care Through Community, an initiative to provide residents with LTSS information and resources in their own towns. Mini grants were awarded to communities through an RFP process. Participating community partners were required to pass a test on LTSS and attend monthly meetings with DSS to ensure they are providing accurate and up-to-date information.
- (d) My Place CT/ CaringCareers.org: DSS launched a refreshed, more user-friendly version of the My Place CT website this summer. Part of MyPlaceCT.org is the Caring Careers homepage that connects potential home care workers with CTHires.com to assist in bolstering the in-home care industry. The site has had 3,475 users to date.
- (e) Housing: DSS, DOH, DDS and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Coordinated Access Network, are partnering on a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 811 grant, to operate a project-based subsidy program intended to serve very-low income consumers with disabilities. Housing partners in Brookfield and Bridgeport CT have been identified.
- (f) Hospice: CT ranks last in the country for hospice median length of stay. Therefore, DSS is working to identify barriers to hospice care for State of CT Medicare/Medicaid participants with chronic medical conditions.
- (g) Informal Caregiver Supports: As part of MFP, DSS is developing an informal caregiver supports pilot project to improve the health and quality of life for both the caregivers of individuals being discharged from a facility to the community and the care recipients themselves. Caregivers will receive “hands-on-teaching” on topics such as medication administration and chronic condition-based nutrition.
- (h) Nursing Facility Diversification: Several nursing home diversification projects are underway. DSS is exploring incentives for conversion of facilities into affordable housing including potential utilization of HUD 232 funding.
- (i) Nursing Facility Closures: Since 2005, 28 nursing facilities have closed and 2,942 beds have been eliminated. However, CT remains over-bedded. To achieve the goal of a 95% nursing facility occupancy rate by 2025 approximately 3,400 more beds will need to be removed from the market over the next eight years.

Meeting Schedule for 2017

Tues., December 5th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A – LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM