
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

June 12, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Jennifer Avenia, Department of Children and Families (DCF); Kathy Bruni, Department of Social Services (DSS); Representative Gary Byron, Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Unit on Aging, Department of Rehabilitation Services (SUA/DORS); Donna Ortelle, Department of Public Health (DPH); Amy Porter (DORS); Jessica Rival, Office of Health Strategy (OHS); Michael Santoro, Department of Housing (DOH); Robert Smith, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez (DCF)

Others Present: Melissa Morton, (OPM)

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2017 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Amy Porter and passed with 8 committee members voting in favor and two abstentions. Jessica Rival and Jennifer Avenia, abstained.

Updates and Announcements

Introduction of New Planning Committee Member: D. Guttchen welcomed Jessica Rival, from the Office Health Strategy.

Introduction of New State Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Mairead Painter, introduced herself as the new State Long-Care Ombudsman (LTCO) as of May 25, 2018, replacing Nancy Shaffer who retired this winter. Her goals for the Long-Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) are: (1) that all nursing home residents and their representatives have informed choice and truly understand their options; and (2) that high quality nursing facilities remain part of the menu of options available to Connecticut residents needing long-term care.

M. Painter reviewed legislation passed during the 2018 legislative session affecting the LTCOP. P.A. 18-6 made the following revisions to the program: (1) transferred the LTCOP from OPM to DORS and (2) made programmatic revisions to bring the program in-line with federal Older Americans Act regulations.

2018 Legislative Update: Melissa Morton provided a brief update highlighting legislation passed during the 2018 legislative session that relate to the work of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee and objectives of the 2016 Long-Term Services and Support Plan. M. Morton highlighted two bills that passed this session changing the composition of the Planning Committee. P.A. 18-160 eliminates the requirement to have a member of the DPH, Office of Health Care Access which moved under OHS and added a member from OHS to be appointed by the OHS Executive Director. P.A. 18-169 updates Planning Committee membership to remove the reference to a member from the State Department on Aging (SDA) due to the Department's elimination. It also adds a member from DORS. M. Morton announced that Margy Gerundo-Murkette, formally the SDA representative, will remain on the

Committee representing the SUA area of DORS. Commissioner Amy Porter will be the official member representing DORS.

D. Guttchen informed members that the adopted State budget reduces funding for the Assisted Living Demonstration program. DOH and OPM are working together to address the shortfall for SFY 2018 but funding shortfalls in the future will be difficult to cover. A certain level of funding for subsidies is required to make the program fiscally feasible for the housing operators.

See the attached to view the complete legislative summary.



Long Term Services
and Support Legisla

2017 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Plan Update: D. Guttchen informed Committee members that the FY 2017 LTSS Plan Update is included in their handouts. He thanked members for their contributions to the Update and asked everyone to review the document and contact Melissa Morton with any additions or revisions. M. Morton asked that revisions be submitted within the next two weeks. Michael Santoro requested a revision be made to page 1, removing reference to DECD and replacing it with DOH.

See attached to view the FY 2016 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan Update.



LTC Plan - 2016 Plan
Status_SF2017_MA'

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

None.

Other Business

Department of Rehabilitation Services Organizational Changes: Commissioner Amy Porter, DORS, provided an update on significant changes to the Department's composition. The State Department on Aging (SDA) was eliminated in 2017 and its functions split with the SUA moving under DSS and the LTCOP relocated to OPM. Advocates pressed for the SUA and LTCOP to remain together. This legislative session both the SUA and LTCOP were moved under DORS, which serves as a "conflict-free" entity for the units to operate. DORS is revising the Department mission to incorporate its expanded role as a state agency. Commissioner Porter asked Committee members to send her any ideas they may have for a revised mission statement. Commissioner Porter and M. Gerundo-Murkette stated that the philosophies of the previous SDA and DORS were already aligned and DORS provided administrative support to SDA, making the agency merger natural.

No Wrong Door Grant: Margy Gerundo-Murkette, SUA/DORS, shared with the group that the SUA has submitted a federal grant for \$1.2 million over two years to provide person-centered counseling through the Veterans' Community Service Program.

Department of Developmental Services Update: Robert Smith, DDS, informed members that DDS has undergone the first major revision to the DDS individual planning and documentation process in ten years. The new practice for individual planning and documentation will be implemented in the near future and integrates LifeCourse planning into the formal planning and documentation process.

Department of Social Services, Community-Based Setting Compliance Update: Kathy Bruni, DSS, reported that DSS is continuing to work towards compliance with the federal 2014 community-based setting rule. The Department has completed their plan and will be posting it on the DSS website for public comment in the near future. After the public comment period closes, DSS will likely hold a public forum. The Department has taken the position that State regulations allow for Assisted Living to be considered a community setting. To date there has not been federal push-back on this position. K. Bruni explained that the biggest challenge with meeting the terms of the setting rule are the Residential Care Homes, many of which are not willing to amend policies around issues such as leases, meals and choice of roommate.

Department of Housing Grant Announcement: Michael Santoro, DOH, announced the upcoming release of the next round of Assisted Living Conversion grants. D. Guttchen reminded members that the initial round of conversion grants, years ago, are what highlighted the need for the State to provide support services in addition to the HUD grant funds that only covered housing. The combination of state-funded supports and federal housing assistance has been a successful model. Originally capped at 4 communities, the success led to the removal of the cap. Connecticut currently has 8 operational HUD assisted living projects throughout the State.

Department of Public Health Nursing Facility Status Update: Donna Ortelle, DPH, reported that DPH continues to monitor and be involved in nursing facility closures across the State. She provided the following update: three nursing facilities have filed for bankruptcy, one has been approved for closure, and one is in receivership. Of these nursing facilities, one is in Waterbury, two are in Bridgeport and the other is in the area of Route 8.

Meeting Schedule for 2018

Tues., September 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

Tues., December 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A – LOB

Adjournment

D. Guttchen requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented by Michael Santoro, seconded by Robert Smith and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.