

## Long Term Care Planning Committee

March 12, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

Melissa Morton, Chair, Office of Policy & Management (OPM); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS); Laura Watson, Department of Housing (DOH); Michael Santoro, DOH; Jessica Rival, Office of Health Strategy; and Barbara Cass, Department of Public Health (DPH)

Others Present: Elyse Pearson, OPM

Excused Absence: Kelly Kendall, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Erin Levitt-Smith, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); commissioner Amy Porter, ADS; Lisa Rivers, Department of Transportation (DOT); and William Seals, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Members Absent: Amy Dumont, Department of Social Services

Called to order by Melissa Morton at 10:04 AM

#### 1. Welcome and Attendance

Ms. Morton welcomed members and introduced Elyse Pearson as the new Planning Analyst within the OPM, Health and Human Service Policy and Planning Division. Ms. Pearson will be staffing the LTC Planning Committee and assisting with the development of the Long Term Care Plan.

#### 2. Adopt Minutes from December 12, 2023, Meeting

Tabled to June meeting due to lack of quorum.

#### 3. Upcoming LTC Planning Committee Activities

Ms. Morton shared the three-year plan expires December 31, 2024. Next plan is due on January 1, 2025. Ms. Morton informed the members that development of the next plan will begin in April. Ms. Morton encouraged members to consider any innovative projects, review long range and short-term goals and if there is a need to revise, add, or delete any existing recommendations.

Ms. Morton shared the stakeholder surveys and focus groups held for the first time during the development of the 2022 LTC Plan were informative and helped shape the Plan to better include the priorities of those served by the State's LTSS system. They will be conducted again and there may be consideration given to increasing the number held this time around.

Ms. Morton gave details as to what committee members can expect and the required updates. The first would be the chart which updates progress made toward achieving the recommendations of the 2022 plan. The second will be Appendix G and members will need to update the program data and consumer demographics, add programs, or remove ones that may no longer be operational.

Ms. Morton gave a review of the current plan goal to reach 75% of Medicaid consumers receiving services and supports in the community and supports and 25% receiving supports in institutional

settings. At this time, there may be a need to extend this goal with modifications, which has not been done since 2007.

#### **4. Update – Multisector Plan for Aging and Disability**

Margaret Gerundo-Murkette (ASD) and Alyssa Norwood, the Age Well Collaborative, provided a presentation to the group updating members on the development of a Multisector Plan for Aging and Disability (MPA). The following are highlights of the presentation:

- Multi-State Learning Collaborative: Connecticut has made meaningful strides with the starting phases to develop an MPA using a collaborative approach. Connecticut is part of a multi-state learning collaborative and is in the second cohort, fostering development and getting started. Ms. Gerundo-Murkette demonstrated examples from other states, their goals, incentives, and collaborative approaches developing MAPs.
- Connecticut Age Well Collaborative: Ms. Norwood provided an update on the supports and efforts implemented by the collaborative.
- Multisector Plans on Aging and Disability: Federal legislation introduced at the end of February, [S.3827 The Strategic Plan for Aging Act](#). If passed this will create new grants for programs under the Older Americans Act to incentivize and support states efforts to create strategic plans for aging or MPAs. Ms. Gerundo-Murkette noted this is a new component of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which funds many of the ADS, State Unit on Aging's programs.

#### Discussion

After the presentation, the following discussion ensued:

Ms. Morton thanked the presenters for their informative presentation on the MPA and asked where Connecticut currently is in the MPA development process and if they are still exploring discovery and feasibility. Ms. Gerundo-Murkette shared that Connecticut is on track, there has been significant research and the collaborative ends in a couple of months. This places Connecticut in the position to explore how an MPA will be implemented with the current resources available.

The full presentation is available on the [LTC Planning Committee web page](#).

#### **5. Member Updates & Announcements**

- Michael Santoro shared that the Department of Housing will be hosting community round tables to inform the development of the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. This plan details the priorities of formula grants for July 2024. Laura Watson can connect those interested in attending.  
  
DOH is also, launching planning activities for Department's next five-year Consolidated Plan effective July 1, 2025.
- Margy Gerundo-Murkette shared that the next three-year State Plan on Aging starts in October 2024. To develop the Plan, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) hosted an in-

person listening sessions and one virtual session for stakeholders to supply feedback on areas of interest or concern for the older adults in Connecticut. ADS focused on the areas of long-term services and supports, healthy aging, and elder rights. Input on the State Plan is still being accepted. Those interested may email comments to [agingstateplan@ct.gov](mailto:agingstateplan@ct.gov).

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

Michael Werner informed the group that [S.B. 5296](#) and [S.B. 5001](#) are priorities for the LTC Advisory Council and the Commission. Together they strengthen supports available in Connecticut. He noted that S.B. 5296 specifically, addresses paid family caregivers and informed members that testimony is still being accepted. He shared an article from WNPR regarding compensation for family caregivers and encouraged all to share this article as it speaks to the S.B. 5296 and S.B. 5001 as they serve to promote the home and community-based service system and rebalancing so that people can age in place.

The next meeting of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council will be on 3/13/2024 at 1:00 PM.

## **7. Other Business**

No additional items were raised by committee members.

**Public Comment:** Deborah Migneault expressed concerns with inclusive language not being used in recent legislation and news articles regarding supports and services for older adults. She was specifically disheartened by the language used in S.B. 5001 and the news articles around it that contained paternalistic and ableist language by the journalists and those who provided quotes. Ms. Migneault encouraged the committee members to demonstrate the need for use of appropriate language at all levels including in bills.

In response to this comment Alyssa Norwood did provide resources in the chat:

[https://ctagewellcollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CTAgeWellCollaborative\\_ResourceGuide\\_ReframingAging.pdf](https://ctagewellcollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CTAgeWellCollaborative_ResourceGuide_ReframingAging.pdf)

## **8. Vote to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Michael Santoro. Seconded by Ms. Margaret Gerundo-Murkette. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM

Full meeting recoding can be accessed here: [https://youtu.be/BiMOY4y\\_Tow](https://youtu.be/BiMOY4y_Tow)

## **2024 Meetings**

Tues., June 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Microsoft Teams

Tues., Sept. 10th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Microsoft Teams

Tues., Dec. 10th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Microsoft Teams