

Long Term Care Planning Committee

March 11, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Long Term Care (LTC) Planning Committee Members in Attendance: Melissa Morton, Chair, Office of Policy & Management (OPM); Christine Weston, Department of Social Services (DSS); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS); Krista Ostaszewski, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Barbara Cass, Department of Public Health (DPH); Commissioner Amy Porter, ADS; Jessica Rival, Office of Health Strategy (OHS), Michael Santoro, Department of Housing (DOH); Laura Watson, DOH.

Others Present: Andre Simon, OPM; Sharica Rose, OPM; Michael Werner, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity and Chair of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council.

Excused Absence: Kelley Kendall, DDS

Absent: William Seals, Department of Children and Families (DCF); Erin Leavitt-Smith, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Lisa Rivers, Department of Transportation (DOT).

Called to order by Chair Melissa Morton at 10:03 AM

1. Welcome

Ms. Morton offered words of welcome, shared an overview of the agenda and discussed the new focus of the LTC Planning Committee.

2. Updates and Announcements

Legislative Update: Ms. Morton shared that bill, [S.B.1416](#) An Act Expanding Long-Term Care Options for Medicaid Beneficiaries, coming out of the Human Services Committee directly affects the LTC Planning Committee. This bill will require the LTC Planning Committee to (1) complete a study of ways to expand home and community-based services under Medicaid and have Medicaid serve more people in the community while demonstrating cost savings to the state and (2) submit a report on the study findings along with recommendations for appropriations and legislation required to support expansion of Medicaid home and community-based service programs. As it stands now, the study and report must be completed by December 1, 2025.

Subcommittee to Develop 2028 LTC Plan: Ms. Morton shared that the LTC Planning Committee will be revisiting the goals, recommendations and structure of the LTC Plan due January 1, 2028. Ms. Morton proposed that a subcommittee comprised of members of the LTC Planning Committee or its designees be formed for this purpose. Ms. Morton will send out a follow-up e-mail on this matter and would like the Committee to start thinking about the composition of the new subcommittee and for discussion at the June meeting.

3. Presentation – Department of Aging and Disability Services – LTSS Programs & Services

Ms. Morton introduced ADS Commissioner Amy Porter and Margy Gerundo-Murkette, Manager, Bureau of Aging (BOA). Commissioner Porter shared thanks to the LTC Planning Committee for their partnership and advised that the presentation being shared will be a high-level overview of ADS Programs and Services and anyone wanting more information on a specific program or service can contact ADS. Highlights from the presentation are below. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

- ADS programs, policies and practices are designed to deliver aging and disability services responsive to the needs of Connecticut citizens; provide and coordinate aging and disability programs and services in the areas of employment, education, independent living, accessibility and advocacy; provide and coordinate aging and disability programs and services in the areas of employment, education, independent living, accessibility and advocacy.
- The Department was first established in 2011. In 2017, the Department on Aging became part of ADS. This allowed the Department to provide more unified services for people with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut.
- The ADS Service Bureaus include Aging, Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Services, Disability Determination Services, Education and Services for the Blind, Rehabilitation Services and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- A new Director was recently hired for the Bureau of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Services.
- ADS has five core areas: employment, education, independent living, accessibility and advocacy.
- The presentation highlighted the following programs:
 - **CHOICES** – a program through the Area Agencies on Aging that helps Connecticut’s older adults, persons with disabilities, providers and caregivers understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options.
 - **The LTC Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)** - works to improve the quality of life and quality of care of Connecticut citizens residing in nursing homes, residential care homes and assisted living communities. The LTCOP responds to and investigates complaints brought forward by residents, family members, and/or other individuals acting on their behalf. Ombudsmen offer information on consultation to consumers and providers, monitor state and federal laws and regulations, and make recommendations for improvement. The program also recruits, trains, and supervises Volunteer Resident Advocates who assist residents in resolving concerns.
- ADS website <http://portal.ct.gov/ads>. ADS contacts, Commissioner Amy Porter, Amy.Porter@ct.gov and BOA Manager Margy Gerundo-Murkette, Margaret.Gerundo-Murkette@ct.gov.

Discussion

- Ms. Morton thanked Commissioner Porter and Ms. Gerundo-Murkette for their presentation and asked whether self-direction is an option under the respite programs. Ms. Gerundo-Murkette replied there are traditional agency and self-directed options.
- Barbara Cass, DPH, shared her interest as to the intersection with ADS and DDS programs serving the intellectual and developmental disability community, specifically,

whether ADS works exclusively with individuals who have physical disabilities or if services extend to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well. Commissioner Porter replied that ADS provides services across categories of disability particularly in the areas of employment, independent living program and assistive technology. She further explained that ADS and DDS coordinate on specific consumer cases to ensure they are receiving the supports necessary to be successful.

Ms. Morton informed the LTC Planning Committee that they can let her know if there are any specific programs for which they would like to receive more in-depth information. Commissioner Porter noted she is happy to answer further questions whether one-by-one or on a particular topic. She also suggested that rather than focusing on individual agencies, it may be more helpful for the Committee to identify topic areas it would like to learn more about and then have a comprehensive cross-agency presentation on that matter.

4. Member Updates & Announcements

Margy Gerundo-Murkette, ADS, announced that they are applying for a 'No Wrong Door Infrastructure Grant' from the Administration for Community Living which seeks to provide a governance structure to coordinate the various no wrong door components operating in the state into one formalized and unified system. There is no set date for ACL to announce the grant award recipients, but this selection is likely to occur in late summer 2025. Should ADS be award funds, it is anticipated that the project would start September 1, 2025.

Ms. Morton announced that the LTC Planning Committee submitted the three-year Long- Term Services and Supports Plan on December 30, 2024, which goes through to December 31, 2027, and the annual rebalancing plan was submitted on January 1, 2025, as well. Both reports can be found on the [LTC Planning Committee website](#).

5. Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

Michael Werner, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, and Chair of the LTC Advisory Council expressed his appreciation to everyone during the busy time of year and shared that the meeting of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council will be held soon, and he will follow-up with everyone on the date and time.

6. Other Business

No additional items were raised by committee members.

7. Vote to adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Michael Santoro. Seconded by Barbara Cass.
All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM

Full meeting recording can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMXhJafdzL0>