

1115 WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
August 26, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Jim Beasley, Rebecca Kislak, Kathleen Kelly, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Michael Varadian, Vivian Weisman

Staff Members and Public Attending: Denise Achin, Amanda Clarke, David Leach, Thomas Marcello, Jenn Bergeron, Diana Beaton, Deidre Gifford, Holly Garvey, Donna Dicenzo, Concetta Dicenzo, Ken Pariseau, Michael Cancilliere, Regina Costa, Steven Patriarca, Rebecca Martish, Edward Currs, Roberta Merkel, Laura Jones, Tara Townsend, Anthony Salvo, Deb Florio, Ann Martino

Ann Martino, EOHHS, opened the meeting by welcoming Deidre Gifford of OHHS to provide the task force with an update on the State Innovative Model (SIM) grant. The SIM grant was awarded through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), an office within CMS. Rhode Island applied for and received a model design grant to develop a state health innovation plan. There are a number of work stream groups that will solicit public input. This effort is being coordinated through Lt. Governor Robert's office and information is available at the following link, <http://www.healthcare.ri.gov>. A draft plan will be released on October 29, 2013 for public input.

Deb Florio, EOHHS, provided the task force with a brief update on the 1115 waiver submission to CMS. The EOHHS is speaking with CMS on a monthly basis to ensure that priority is given to those parts of the waiver that need immediate approval. Ms. Florio also informed the task force of recent developments in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Open enrollment in the new state health insurance exchange will begin on October 1, 2013. The new integrated eligibility system being developed will be able to match Medicaid and tax credits. Consumers will be able to anonymously shop the website to inquire on their eligibility for different programs.

Ms. Florio also spoke on new policy and program efforts at the EOHHS. In order to handle the newly expanded Medicaid population, EOHHS will be hiring more appeals officers. EOHHS will be conducting and managing hearings for Medicaid and other public assistance programs. Also, the EOHHS and the health insurance exchange will be working together on the new state contact center. Connections will be running the center and is looking to hire 90 full-time positions. Employees will go through 4 weeks of intensive training in hopes of going live on September 16, 2013. The call center will assist anyone seeking information on health insurance, both public and private.

The task force was also given an update on the Integrated Care Initiative (ICI). A press release will be sent out to the task force and posted on www.eohhs.ri.gov that explains how the initiative will be rolled out. An enrollment help line will also be available to

answer consumer and provider questions. Consumers can also email integratedcare@ohhs.ri.gov with any questions.

The next meeting of the 1115 Waiver Task Force is scheduled for Monday September 23, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.