

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
December 17, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Rebecca Kislak, Linda Katz, Maureen Maigret, Joanne Malise, James Nyberg, Vivian Weisman

Staff Members and Public Attending: Tom Marcello, Denise Achin, Patrice Cogzer, Melinda Thomas, Holly Garvey, Jennifer Reid, Ken Pariseau, Jim Beasley, Darren McDonald, Lynn DelVecchio, Rebecca Martish, Lindsay McAllister, Amanda Clarke, Tina Spears, Deborah Garneau, Sue Vandal, John Dooley, Elena Nicolella, Ann Martino, Anthony Salvo, Sen. Tom Izzo

Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director, opened the meeting by welcoming all task force members and notified the task force of coming Medicaid activity. There have been no decisions regarding any Medicaid cuts at this time. The process has safety measures in place.

Senator Tom Izzo, Community Chair, addressed the task force on progress that has been made within the group. Sen. Izzo noted that the way to approach these problems is to keep a long-term solution in mind and not to miss the broader structural changes that are needed. He also noted that better integration is needed for progress to occur. Better public awareness and understanding of the process will aid all in their individual goals.

In regards to the supplemental payments to assisted living facilities, checks have started to arrive and the matter will be addressed as a budget item.

Question – Joanne – It is hard to have a conversation on where Medicaid is going if we don't talk about housing.

Answer – Ann Martino – Medicaid will not pay for room and board. We are looking for innovative opportunities to address this issue.

Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director, provided the task force with an update on the 1115 waiver renewal. She noted that we need to take advantage of the task force member's participation in other groups and align that work. We can work with departments and directors to maximize effort and look at all suggestions. Expedited eligibility for long-term care is another way we can get people access to care in a quicker fashion. Reimbursement rates and payment reforms will also be included in the 1115 renewal request.

Question – James Nyberg – Will the CNOM population that does not fall under the ACA still be covered?

Answer – Elena Nicolella – We will be looking at this population during the FY2014 budget exercise. The federal government will be covering the cost of some services. Our

intent is to not stop any CNOM services unless that service is picked up by Medicaid. Mrs. Nicolella also thanked all task force members for taking time out of their schedules to attend the monthly meetings.

Question – Tina Spears – Children with special health care needs are having a hard time with transportation needs. They are not able to access preventative care or other services. There is also a workforce issue that should be addressed.

Answer – We are open to looking at this issue. The federal government is open to different financing models. Funding from the General Assembly is the most difficult task to achieve. Regarding the workforce issue, we can look at programs to increase training and pay scales.

Question – James Nyberg – Is there an update on Integrated Care?

Answer – Elena Nicolella – We are looking to maintain our current timeframe as well as incorporate DEA services with integrated care initiatives.

The next Global Waiver Task Force meeting will be held on Monday January 28, 2013 at the Arnold Conference Center, Pastore Complex, Cranston, RI. This will be a public hearing on the 1115 waiver extension.