

1115 WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
February 24, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Maureen Maigret, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg

Staff Members and Public Attending: Kara Pieroni, Tom Marcello, Anne Quintero, Diana Beaton, Michael Cancilliere, Thomas Martin, Holly Garvey, Cristina Amedeo, Steven J. Patriarca, John Mansolillo, Janet Iovino, Roberta Merkle, Jessica Mowry, Elena Nicolella, Anthony Salvo, Sen. Tom Izzo

Elena Nicolella, EOHHS, opened the meeting by introducing Michelle Brophy of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH).

Michelle Brophy, BHDDH, provided the task force with a presentation on the Employment First Initiative. Rhode Island is among many states that have begun this initiative. BHDDH is working closely with the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) and the Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS).

Question – This is a policy now but when will there be new funding structures?

Answer – We are in the process of doing this now. A notice went out to providers to develop a three year strategic plan.

Question – Sen. Izzo – A number of individuals had their activities cancelled/closed and are now sitting at home. How many were affected by the recent closures?

Answer – Michelle Brophy – Around 200 individuals were affected by the recent closures. We are working on integrated services to ensure that no one is left out.

Elena Nicolella also provided the task force with a brief overview of recent home and community based services rules/regulations issued by CMS. EOHHS is still analyzing the final rules to see which apply to Rhode Island. The new rules place an emphasis on the actual person receiving care to become a part of their own plan of care. This allows individuals to have a greater understanding of their future care. We do not see these rules having a direct impact on the Integrated Care Initiative. EOHHS will be putting together a draft letter to CMS to clarify any questions we have on the final rules.

Question – Maureen Maigret – Any interpretation from CMS on whether Rhode Island needs to comply?

Answer – Elena Nicolella – Nothing I read that says states must go to CMS, we will be reaching out to CMS anyway with specific questions.

Ms. Nicolella presented the task force with an update on the EOHHS Dental Report. The report focuses on adult dental services funded by Medicaid. Medicaid makes payments directly to providers. These payments are very low and have not been changed since the

mid-1990s. The dental report presents a five year plan to improve the dental benefit. The RI Medicaid adult dental benefit has a low utilization rate, around 35%, and is primarily used for treatment rather than prevention. There is a lack of perceived need for good oral health among the community. Oral health affects one's ability to gain employment and fight cancer. This report explores the option of increasing the dental benefit for those who need further dental care and attention. We are looking to be responsive to people's needs as well as place an increased focus on preventative services. Another option is to combine medical and dental services into a managed care program.

The March 2014 task force meeting will be held on Monday March 24, 2014.