

EOHHS TASK FORCE MEETING
February 23, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Jessica Mowry, Jennifer Reid, Melanie Morti, Kathy McKeon, Kim Brito, Thomas Martin, Janet Iovino, John Mansolillo, Nelia Botelho, Ken Pariseau, Kathleen Heren, Nicholas Oliver, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, Joanne Malise, Michael Walker, Deb Garneau, Elaina Goldstein, Phil Keefe, Michelle Szylin, Mary Ciano, Sharon Terzian, Rebecca Kislak, Anne Mulready, Steven Patriarca, Linda Katz, Sen. Tom Izzo, Ann Martino, Elena Nicolella, Jacqueline Kelley, Anthony Salvo, Bill Flynn, Heidi Taylor, Michael Cancilliere, Jeff Christie, Jim Nyberg, Lee Baker, Lisa Conlon

Elena Nicolella, EOHHS, introduced Tom Martin of EOHHS to provide an update on the home and community based services (HCBS) final rule. Tom stated that an assessment tool for residential and non-residential settings will be rolled out on 2/24 to all task force members. There will be meetings with providers and networks to talk about the assessment tool and implementation. Once the tool is complete there will be a public comment period in April 2015. Michelle Brophy of BHDDH also noted that the agency is looking to CMS for guidance on the behavioral health side. BHDDH will be looking for public input on regulations. This is a great opportunity for stakeholders and public advocates to get involved.

Kim Merolla Brito and Deb Buffi, Department of Human Services (DHS), presented an overview of UHIP Phase 2. Phase 2 of the program includes an integrated eligibility system known as RI Bridges. Customers will be able to view their eligibility at home. They can access their profiles and submit documentation as needed. This will allow them to make changes/updates without having to call or visit a regional office. Staff training will be made available as expected issues come up in the system. DHS is also rolling a new business process redesign for all six of its regional field offices. Casework will now be task oriented rather than case based. Workers will be able to process cases more efficiently from start to finish. Customers who access the UHIP system online will be able to follow the status of their applications. Long-term care will remain a manual system with paper applications. There will be more detailed information on the UHIP implications for the Katie Beckett and long-term care programs at the March 23, 2015 TF meeting.

Ann Martino, EOHHS, gave a brief explanation of 1115 waiver proposals that Rhode Island will be pursuing. See attached document for information.

The next EOHHS Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday March 23, 2015 from 1:00-3:00pm, 301 Metro Center Blvd, Warwick RI.