

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
December 20, 2010
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Leo Canuel, Cathy Ciano, Elizabeth Earls, Elaina Goldstein, Mark Heffner, Linda Katz, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, Joanne Malise, Kathy McKeon, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Judy Sullivan, Craig Syata, Sharon Terzian, Linnea Tuttle, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward)

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Lori Quararta, Alison Croke, Holly Garvey, Tara Townsend, Amanda Belisle, Lauren Pond, Heather Daglier, Ellen Mauro, Michael Pearis, Lynn DeVecchio, Denise Achin, Ellen Kreutler, Alan R. Post, Beth Marootian, Deb Garneau, Roberta Merkle, Kathleen Samways, Kathy Dennard, Elena Nicolella

Ms. Elaina Goldstein, CEC Spokesperson, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and other participants. She gave an over view of the last CEC meeting and how difficult it may be to respond to questions today because of the transitioning of a new administration in January.

Ellen Mauro, Administrator of Medical Services on Institutional/Community Services and Supports, presented an overview of the Nursing Home Transition Program including data on the number of individuals transitioned, diverted, placed and in community placements. She stated that a total 1,045 individuals have been transferred or diverted since the start of the program. Out of 178 transferred, only one has resulted in failure. The remainder were either diverted from Nursing Homes or were assessed at the high instead of the highest level of care. An average of 10 clients per month are moved out of nursing homes. Ms. Mauro also commented that there are about 20 individuals involved with the Shared Living program.

Ms. Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director, commented on the Long Term Care RFI. She stated that the Office of Purchasing received 2 questions regarding the RFI and the department recently responded. Those responses to the questions were sent to Purchasing today but have not yet been posted. Ms. Nicolella discussed Background Checks and explained that the next steps would be dependent on the new state Attorney General. She expected to meet with the new Attorney General in January and legislation would be drafted and submitted to the General Assembly. She discussed the CMS Innovative Programs grant which has also required coordination with BHDDH. The budget for this grant is in the preliminary stages. One proposal would recognize out of service beds and nursing home repayment.

Ms. Nicolella commented on Resource Mapping, which is part of the Real Choices grant. Ninigret Partners has been assisting the state with this grant and has recently provided data showing the state's changing demographics that would be presented to the Global

Waiver Task at a later date. The data would show how the family structure is changing and how that has affected the elder population.

Regarding administration changes, Ms. Nicolella noted that 12/21/10 is the deadline for the Ethics Committee to rule on whether former state representative Steven Costantino can serve as Secretary of EOHHS. No additional updates on changes to the administration were available.

Ms. Holly Garvey, from OHHS, commented on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) rebalancing application due at CMS on January 7, 2011. The document consists of 3 components that include; to continue to support the nursing home transitions program, the populations served by DCYF, and the populations at BHDDH. Letters of support have been requested and the application would be submitted shortly.

Ms. Goldstein introduced the CEC Workgroup Chairs to report on their activities over the last month.

Ms. Kathy McKeon presented the **Communications Workgroup** updated report. She commented that a meeting has been scheduled for January, which will be posted on ONTRAK. The workgroup had continued to reach out for new members and hoped that more Global Waiver Task Force members would consider joining this workgroup.

Ms. Joan Kwiatowski and **Ms. Linda Katz** both gave an updated report for the **Evaluation Workgroup**. That workgroup met once and another meeting has been scheduled for February 10, 2011 at 9:30 at PACE which will be posted on ONTRAK. After the workgroup met in October, they decided that it would be divided into 3 groups focused on: what is already in place, what further information is needed, and how to integrate all the information to find out what programs are successful and where improvements need to be developed. For example, Ms. Kwiatowski stated that DHS provided a report to the workgroup that had indicators but there was discussion on what could be missing. They also explored what should be measured and if there is any overlap, which could be integrated and then evaluated.

Mr. Jim Nyberg, Chair of the Housing Workgroup, commented that his group met in October and another meeting has been scheduled for January. The first meeting focused on Money Follows the Person, which would be discussed further at the next meeting. A report is available on OnTRAK.

Mr. Mark Heffner, Chair of LTC Phase I, reported that his group had their third meeting last Thursday. He commented that Mary Slinko and Kim Merolla-Brito from OHHS staff have been extremely helpful in this process along with Tom Conlon. The workgroup developed a spreadsheet that detailed all different programs that vary from institutions. Their goal would be to figure what is out there and how to get it documented in the correct way. Mr. Heffner and the workgroup would be putting together a draft of sections of the regulations and note those who are responsible. He will have Ann Martino and Elena Nicolella review the document that would need to be promulgated

under the regulatory process. The next meeting has been scheduled for January 20, 2010 at 9 a.m.

Ms. Goldstein, Co-chair of the Disabilities Workgroup, updated the Task Force on 3 meetings that were held, which focused on responding to all disabilities across the spectrum from birth to the elderly.

Under the present system, services vary differently under the DD Waiver for eligibility and long term care. The workgroup also discussed how the new Health Care legislation could impact those with disabilities and also how that legislation could improve coverage.

Prior to adjourning, the chair asked that suggestions for agenda items for the January meeting be sent to Kathy Dennard.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task Force has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011, from 1-3 p.m., at the Arnold Conference Room, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, Rhode Island.