

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2011
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Jacqueline Downy, Elizabeth Earls, Charles Feldman, Elaina Goldstein, Linda Katz, Maureen Maigret, Donna Martin, Everett Maxwell, Ann Mulready, Br. Michael Reis, Craig Syata, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward), Michelle Brophy (representing James Ryczek), Jill Beckwirth (representing Elizabeth Burke Bryant)

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Lori Quararta, Holly Garvey, Tara Townsend, Lynn DelVecchio, Dr. Alan Post, Patrice Cooper, Tom Kane, Brian Jordeu, Cathy Crester, Rele Ablade Ritter, Amy Lapierre, Doreen McConaghy, Lee Ward, Kathleen Heren, Paula Parker, Rebecca Martish, Sue Vandal, Carla Russet, Matthew Harvey, Diana Beaton, Robert Kalaskowski, Tara Townsend, Janet Iovino, Alison Buskser, Beth Marootian, Deb Garneau, Roberta Merkle, Kathleen Samways, Kathy Dennard, Ann Marino, Elena Nicolella

Director Attending: Craig Stenning, BHDDH Director

Ms. Dawn Wardyga, CEC Spokesperson, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and other participants. She recognized Ms. Nicolella who gave the EOHHS report.

Ms. Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director, commented there were no request to CMS for any category II or III changes to the State's Medical Assistance but some Category II changes maybe coming depending on the budget. She also mentioned that all Category changes would require a Resolution, which would need to be introduced by the General Assembly for approval.

Ms. Nicolella gave the status of the Long Term Care Transition Project in Ellen Mauro absence. She stated that there are presently 24 individuals receiving Shared Living benefits. Ms. Nicolella addressed the next item on the agenda that focused on any action taken to date in support of healthcare reform readiness. She stated that the department would comply with the requirement to offer tobacco cessation program, for pregnant women, by March 1st. The department also has taken action of other initiatives that include MFP, Medicaid Duals, and Health Home Care included in healthcare reform. She stated that the Long Term Care RFI responses are still under review and interviews will be scheduled shortly.

Ms. Nicolella reported that the Managed Care Reprocurement has proceeded and Ms. Deb Florio would give an overview of that program at the next Global Waiver meeting. Relative to EOHHS initiatives presently being pursued, she stated that the department has continued to pursue grants and Modernization, which included Strengthening Working Families and a Ford Foundation grant. The Ford Foundation announced that Rhode Island

was one of fourteen finalists and a planned site visit would be held with representatives of the Ford Foundation and state staff on January 25, 2011. The state presentation would focus on how reform and integration of social services would address the economic security in the state primarily with Child Care and RI Works. The planning grant by the Ford Foundation would be \$1.5 million over a three-year period.

Ms. Elizabeth Williams, State Liaison for CNA Analysis & Solutions, gave an overview of the National Background Check Program (NBCP) in Rhode Island. She stated that her role with this program is to work with stakeholders and to also provide technical assistance. (Presentation attached).

Ms. Williams introduced **Director James Dube, from the Attorney General's Office**, who discussed and reviewed the current status of the NBCP implementation program, which was created under the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The goal would be to design comprehensive (federal and state) applicant criminal background check programs for jobs involving direct patient access. Under the pilot program, Director Dube would be engaging expert consultants and reaching out to key stakeholders and constituents to assess and discuss areas of need and priority. He urged and would welcome the input of members of the Global Waiver Task Force in the implementation of NBCP. Any comments, questions, or concerns should be sent to Mr. Dube's attention at the RI Attorney General's Office, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 or at jdube@riag.ri.gov.

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

On behalf of Mr. Mark Heffner, Chair of the LTC Phase I – Rules and Policy, Ms. Ann Martino gave the updated report. She commented that the workgroup has continued to review each individual statute of rules for LTC, which would need to be promulgated under the regulatory process. She further stated that the identified problem areas that need to be addressed would be discussed during the on-site visit by the Ford Foundation. The next LTC Phase meeting would be scheduled in February.

Linda Katz, Co-Chair of the Evaluation Workgroup, reported that the committee is still obtaining better information on what programs are successful and where improvements need to be developed along all state agencies. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2010 at 9:30 at PACE.

James Nyberg, Chair of the Housing Workgroup, Report was presented by Holly Garvey that the group met in October and future meetings are on hold until further direction is provided by the State.

Ms. Wardyga, Co-Chair of the Disabilities Workgroup, announced that there has been a schedule posted for 2011 and 2012 on ONTRAK and the EOHHS website of all future meetings, times, and locations. She welcomed anyone who is interested to please feel free to attend any of those meetings.

Ms. Rebecca Kislak, Co-Chair of the Communication Workgroup, commented their committee had been reviewing material and would be developing smaller workgroups. She also requested the need of assistance of state staff in developing their recommendations.

Ms. Martino announced that the RIPTA study was in final form and will be presented during the next meeting. She also commented that the department has drafted budget initiatives, which have been sent to the new administration, but there have been no final decisions relative to those initiatives. A questions was raised regarding the need for a Category II Change for the Personal Choice program. The response was that the payment had not changed, the tool used to calculate the service hours had a error which was corrected.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task Force has been scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2011, from 1-3 p.m., at the Arnold Conference Room, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, Rhode Island.