

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING

May 23, 2011

MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Virginia Burke, Cathy Ciano, Elizabeth Earls, Elaina Goldstein, Mark Heffner, Linda Katz, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, Joanne Malise, Kathy McKeon, Ann Mulready, Br. Michael Reis, James Ryczek, Judy Sullivan, Sharon Terzian, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward), Tara Townsend (representing Dawn Wardyga)

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Lori Quararta, Holly Garvey, Rebecca Martish, Diana Beaton, Helen Grimaldi, Cathy Cranston, Dr. Alan R. Post, Chris Heiss, Alison Croke, Joan Wood, Claire Rosenbaum, Ellen Mauro, Alison Buckser, Lisa Conlon, Laura Olincon, Kathy Dennard, Ann Marino, Tom Marcello

Ms. Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and other attendees. She then recognized **Ms. Ellen Mauro, DHS Administrator of Medical Services of Institutional/Community Services Supports**, who would be representing Elena Nicolella at today's meeting. Ms. Martino commented that the Secretary of EOHHS made the decision to fill the position of Global Waiver Community Chair. Nominations will be accepted through a public posting for the position. The Secretary is also evaluating all the data done by the Task Force to date and would be looking at reorganizing their work in order to integrate those reports with other EOHHS initiatives going forward. A letter from the Secretary would be sent explaining the integration of those initiatives, to the members of the Global Waiver Task Force which will also be posted on ONTRAK. Ms. Martino then introduced the interns who will be involved with the Real Choices grant this summer. They are Cara Sammartino, Aubrey Manning, Jennifer McElroy, and Dean Gardner.

Ms. Martino recognized Mr. Thomas Marcello, Project Manager/Real Choices, and he gave a power point presentation on the key progress of the 5-year Rhode Island Real Choices grant. ABT Associates would do a final evaluation of this grant and would welcome any task force comments. Please contact Kathy Dennard at kdennard@ohhs.ri.gov to submit any comments or thoughts. Ms. Martino also commented that EOHHS is in the process of redoing their website and would welcome any community comments that would assist in the redesign.

(Presentation Attached)

Ms. Mauro presented updated results of the Nursing Home Transition program. As of July 2010, there were 348 nursing home transitions referrals: 95 are currently in transition, 75 participants are in the community receiving core services, 14 are in assisted living, 3 are dead, 2 are receiving Personal Choice, and 1 is receiving cores services with DME. Under the Nursing Home Diversion program, 440 clients have been diverted from needing High Core services. There were 77 clients who are receiving nurse case management, and 44 clients are involved with Shared Living.

Ms. Mauro presented an update on the Money Follows the Person (MFP). The MFP program goals are to:

- Increase the use of HCBS and reduce the use of institutionally-based services; eliminate barriers and mechanisms in State law, State Medicaid plans;
- State budgets that prevent or restrict the flexible use of Medicaid funds to enable Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive long-term care in the setting of their choice;
- Strengthen the ability of Medicaid programs to assure continued provision of HCBS to those individuals who choose to transition from institutions;
- Ensure that procedures are in place to provide quality assurance and continuous quality improvement of HCBS.

Ms. Mauro stated that the key elements of the Rhode to Home would include community outreach, early identification, coordinated person-centered care management plan, and care coordination. The federal funding awarded to RI was \$24.5 million from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016 contingent upon approval of Operational Protocol. One of the keys of this initiative would be strong stakeholder involvement and the involvement of consumer and provider focus groups. The state of Connecticut's MFP programs took 18 months focusing on rebalancing their program and have since been able to increase the projected transitions to over 5,000 individuals over 3 years.

Q: Could you comment further on the definition of who may be eligible for the demonstration, which must include individuals who reside in an institution for more than 90 consecutive days versus those receiving short-term rehabilitation.

A: This is for the newly disabled but the stakeholder group will look at this and how this rule could be broadened, in accordance with the CMS defined "qualified" institution

Ms. Martino commented that the EOHHS Secretary has requested that all Global Waiver Workgroups submit their final reports and also requested final updates of workgroup activities.

Ms. Kathleen McKeon, Co-Chair of the Communication Workgroup, commented that her group had developed a communication system which would be submitted to the Secretary.

Ms. Linda Katz, Co-Chair of the Evaluation Workgroup, reported that she would be meeting with her co-chair, Joan Kiatkowski, and they would be submitting their proposal later in the week, which would also incorporate quality indicators.

Mr. Mark Heffner, Chair of the LTC Phase I – Rules and Policy Workgroup, commented that his committee has received excellent support from DHS staff. He also reported that this process had required a lot of time in just understanding the rules before

even reviewing each individual statute of rules for LTC. The committee work would need to be ongoing because of the complexities of these activities.

Ms. Elaina Goldstein, Co-Chair of the Disabilities Workgroup, announced that the committee has focused on disability and exchanges and urged that Disability Eligibility stay the same as required by CMS.

Again, Ms. Martino thanked the committees and appreciated all their hard work. She stated again that all Global Waiver workgroups need to submit their final reports soon because all those proposals need to be reviewed and possibly reformulated moving forward. She again requested that nominations for Community Chair be sent to her as soon as possible.

Ms. Martino commented that there would be no budget report since there have been no significant changes since the last Global Waiver meeting. She reported that EOHHS continues to hold legislative meetings every Tuesday to discuss all relative policy and relevant legislative issues. Ms. Martino reported that the Medicaid Expenditure Report would have slightly different measures, which will now include utilization measures that will reflect data from the 3 preceding years. This will be done to address all issues.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next Global Waiver Implementation Task Force meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 27, 2011 at a location yet to be determined.