

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
May 20, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Jim Beasley, Jacqueline Downy, Rebecca Kislak, Linda Katz, Joanne Malise, Kathy McKeon, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Michael Varadian, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga

Staff Members and Public Attending: Holly Garvey, Jenn Bergeron, Jennifer Reid, Michelle Szyllin, Deborah Garneau, Paula Parker, Nancy Silva, Amanda Clarke, Denise Achin, Thomas Marcello, Matt Vorro, Steven J. Patriarca, Michael Cancilliere, Diana Beaton, Janet Marquez, Roberta Merkel, Jay Burdick, Deb Florio

Senator Thomas Izzo, Community Chair, opened the meeting by notifying the task force that DCYF will be attendance at the June 24th meeting.

Larry Ross, Medicaid, provided the task force with an update regarding the new nursing home payment methodology. Mr. Ross said the new approach will be price based rather than cost based. The payments will reflect the acute needs of patients. This will be a 4 year, phased in process that allows all nursing homes to make adjustments in order to maintain quality of care. Ultimately this new methodology will allow us to pay more for patients that require more care.

Q – Senator Izzo – How did the department arrive at this understanding? Was there any legislation?

A – Larry Ross – The broad features were addressed in statute last session. We have been very open and transparent with the industry.

Deb Florio, Medicaid, provided an update on the Integrated Care initiative. Ms. Florio described the integrated care initiative as an effort to coordinate Medicaid/Medicare services in one entity. See attached presentation.

Q – Senator Izzo – Medicare and Medicaid will continue to pay and we have an added layer of coordination for LTC, will there be an added cost factor?

A – Ann Martino – There will be a continuity of care from one setting to another that will be seamless for the patient.

Ms. Florio also noted that the start date for this initiative will likely be in late fall of 2013. Also, LTC eligibility will still be done in the Department of Human Services' field offices.

Alda Rego, Chief Budget Officer, EOHHS, provided the task force with a presentation on the Rhode Island Caseload and Revenue Estimating Conference. The conference takes place twice a year in May and November. All caseloads, including those in Medicaid and cash assistance programs, are reviewed along with state revenue projections. The

committee overseeing this conference is comprised of House and Senate Finance Committee members and the Budget Office. Ms. Rego noted that estimates are derived from current law.

Darren McDonald, EOHHS, gave the task force a brief update on veteran's related issues. Mr. McDonald informed the task force of a SAMHSA policy academy training that occurred in April 2013. A delegation of state, federal and community veteran's groups came together to come up with a plan to make it easier for veterans to access services. The goal is to make these services as inclusive as possible. EOHHS is seeking to gain any input from all interested groups who would like to contribute to this project.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Task Force is scheduled for Monday June 24, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Department of Labor and Training Building 73 (Room 73-1) Cranston, RI.