

1115 WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING  
September 23, 2013  
MEETING MINUTES

**Task Force Members Attending:** Jim Beasley, Rebecca Kislak, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, Kathy McKeon, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Sharon Terzian, Vivian Weisman

**Staff Members and Public Attending:** Ken Pariseau, Holly Garvey, Jennifer Reid, Jennifer Bergeron, Denise Achon, Deborah Garneau, Thomas Marcello, Roberta Merkel, Patrice Cooper, Jordan Kennedy, Anthony Salvo, Elena Nicolella, Sen. Tom Izzo, Darren McDonald, Rick Jacobsen

**Elena Nicolella, EOHHS**, opened the meeting by discussing major initiatives that are currently ongoing within the department. Ms. Nicolella noted an increase of payments to primary care physicians that is now equal to the Medicare payment. Also, on October 1, 2013, HealthSource RI will be live and will enroll newly eligible individuals into Medicaid. HealthSource RI and the state contracted with RIHCA for in-person navigators to help individuals apply for benefits.

Ms. Nicolella also commented on the Integrated Care Initiative. The EOHHS feels as though the effort is beneficial to nursing homes and the overall community. The initiative was rolled out in a transparent way that allowed clients to enroll in a managed care plan or choose to not participate.

Q – Maureen Maigret – Have provider rates been negotiated?

A – Elena Nicolella – We cannot comment on that, we'll have to seek advice from our general counsel. Generally we do not publish rates.

**Darren McDonald, EOHHS**, provided the task force with an update on accessing federal authority for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mr. McDonald spoke to the task force on the newly created Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). MAGI is a federal requirement that specifies disregards and income allowances for newly eligible individuals. The new federal rules apply a standard 5% income disregard across the board. Rhode Island estimates that this will apply to around 50,000 newly eligible over time. The federal government will fund 100% of the newly eligible population for the first 3 years. The goal is to conduct outreach with RICHA and Neighborhood Health Plan of RI for targeting of specific populations. MAGI will be used for coverage purchased through HealthSource RI.

**Rick Jacobsen, Xerox**, spoke to the task force on the 1115 waiver extension. Mr. Jacobsen noted that the final submission went to CMS on August 15, 2013. EOHHS and CMS have been speaking on daily to finalize approval papers. There will be an expedited approval process for all items that the state needs immediate authority to conduct. These expedited authorities will be in place for January 1, 2014. All conversations with CMS

have been very positive. Any updates on the waiver extension will be forwarded to the task force.

**Senator Izzo, Community Chair**, asked the task force where they see the focus of this group going in the future. He noted that there will be attempt to make the meeting more meaningful. Any members who would like to have certain topics on the agenda should forward their concerns to Anthony Salvo ([asalvo@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:asalvo@dhs.ri.gov)).

**Please not the October meeting has been canceled.** The next meeting of the 1115 Waiver Task Force is scheduled for Monday November 18, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m at the Arnold Conference Center, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, RI.