

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
RI Global Consumer Choice Compact 1115 Demonstration Waiver
Taskforce Meeting #1
May 12, 2009

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions/ Gary Alexander: Secretary Alexander recognized Department Directors Craig Stenning (MHRH), Patricia Martinez (DCYF), and Corrine Calise Russo (DEA) and asked Taskforce members to introduce themselves and state their affiliation. He also recognized Representative Eileen Naughton and Tim Costa, the Governor's Policy Director.

II. Purpose of the Taskforce/Gary Alexander: Secretary Alexander summarized the three goals of the Global Waiver approved in January 2009: re-balancing the Medicaid-funded long-term care system to increase home and community-based care, ensuring all Medicaid beneficiaries have a medical home and that care is coordinated; and procuring services in ways that reward high quality care and ensure a cost-effective program.

Secretary Alexander thanked Taskforce members for their participation and stated that this meeting may represent the first time that such a diverse group of interests has come together in one room as a cohesive body to work toward a common goal: cost-effective, quality services for the Medicaid population. He also stated that Taskforce members were selected from a pool of over 200 interested parties who expressed interest in participating.

Secretary Alexander recognized the efforts of the Perry-Sullivan workgroups and their chairs, Roberta Merkle, Joan Kwiatkowski, and Elaina Goldstein. Their efforts informed the development of the Global Waiver and to a great extent were the basis of many of the concepts in the Global Waiver Proposal.

Secretary Alexander stated that members of the public will also have opportunities to participate in the work of the Global Waiver Taskforce workgroups. Clinicians will participate on a Medical Care Advisory Committee that will be formed.

Secretary Alexander summarized staff progress to date in working forward towards implementation. Public hearings on rules implementing the new needs-based nursing facility related levels of care and other aspects of the Waiver will be held on May 21. Information on progress to date as well as the public hearings is available in the Taskforce packet or on the OHHS website.

Ann Martino was recognized as Taskforce Chair and members were reminded that this will be a working group, and that the sustainability of the Medicaid program in the long-term is the number one priority. All policy recommendations must be developed with financial constraints and affordability in mind.

III. Taskforce Workgroups/Ann Martino: The six Workgroups will include Housing, Employment, LTC Insurance Partnership Program, Katie Beckett, Dual-Eligibles, and Medicaid Benefit Re-design. The goal of the Workgroups will be to develop recommendations that are specific enough that they could be the basis for budget articles, Waiver changes, legislative proposals, or rule changes. The ultimate goal is to bring forward recommendations for the next legislative session.

Each recommendation should include a fiscal analysis that reflects how the initiative will save money or, if investment is required, how that investment will result in long-term program cost-savings. Workgroups are asked to assess opportunities and to approach issues in new and innovative ways.

The Workgroups are urged to avoid looking narrowly at one possibility but instead to work with other existing groups and activities going on across the state.

EOHHS and DHS staff will participate on the Workgroups but will not hold leadership roles. Staff may assist in finding meeting space or reporting if needed. An e-mail will go out to all Taskforce members asking which Workgroup you would like to participate on and whether you would like to hold a leadership role. Members of the public can contact Workgroup chairs to ask to participate. People can serve on more than one Workgroup if

they have the time. Workgroups, in general, are not intended to be population-specific; rather they are focused on topics that cut across all groups. The challenge is how to ensure that people receive appropriate services in an appropriate setting. Workgroup meetings are not subject to open meeting rules.

Workgroups will report back to the Taskforce and can work together where interests dove-tail.

IV. Response from Taskforce Members:

Q: What is the timeline; what information are you looking for before the next meeting?

A: We will establish guidelines as to when we expect work products and will ask for your input as to what you think is realistic. We would like to have as much as possible completed before the next legislative session.

Q: How can we get public input into the Workgroups? Can we put notices on the website regarding when the Workgroups will meet?

A: We will work with you to publicize this information. People not on the Taskforce can access the OHHS website at www.ohhs.ri.gov; Taskforce members will be notified via e-mail in addition to information posted on the OHHS website.

Q: I'm concerned that the format isolates the individual; it takes them out of the context of the family.

A: There will be opportunities to focus your work on the family, particularly on Medicaid redesign.

Q: The Workgroup agendas should be posted in advance, so that those with interest in the topic will know to attend.

A: To the extent that we can, given time constraints and the Open Meetings law, we will do so.

Q: Is there an assumption that you will bring other state agencies into the Workgroups?

A: If you determine that you need certain agencies to participate on your Workgroups, we will reach out to them for you.

Q: If we identify issues, how do we know whether they are within the scope of the waiver?

A: Staff can help and you should also bring those questions to the Taskforce.

Q: I suggest that you add to your e-mail a question asking which Taskforce members may have space they could lend for the Workgroup meetings.

Q: How do we clarify problems and issues that have percolated up?

A: This is an ongoing process and there will be opportunities for you to come forward. We don't expect all problems to be resolved by July 1; that is just the beginning. I urge you to bring all issues to our attention.

Q: What part of the waiver starts on July 1?

A: There are a number of opportunities or options for those accessing Long Term Care beginning July 1. Please refer to the rules that have been proposed for specific information on items that we intend to implement on July 1.

Q: Can we have an electronic version of the Status of Implementation document so we can distribute within our own agencies? And can we get access to the data we need?

A: Yes. We will work with the chairs of each workgroup to identify data needs.

Q: How do we know whether we have everyone we need on our Workgroup?

A: Once the Workgroups are formed we will work with the leaders on this.

Q: Integration between state agencies has been an issue in the past. Why don't we see the RI Department of Education on the Taskforce?

A: DOE was invited and is in attendance. The Office of Special Education is especially interested in this work. Representatives from State agencies will be invited to participate

to the extent the Workgroups identify a need for them.

Q: The leaders of the Workgroups should get together early on to avoid duplication of efforts.

Q: It would be great to get an information package before we get started -- budget info, etc.

Q: I have questions about bringing everyone up to speed on Medicaid.

A: We can post information on website such as the Future of Medicaid Report, Medicaid expenditure report, etc.

Q: What about other potential Workgroups? For example, the relationship between providers and beneficiaries?

A: We'll look at the responses to the survey we e-mail. If a Workgroup has little or no interest we'll get input as to a new one.

Q: It's important to make sure that we are kept informed as to changes that are made.

A: There will be updates and information available.

Q: A biography of members would help us. Also, can we develop on-line forums? July 7th may be a bad date for the next Taskforce meeting due to the July 4th holiday.

A: Thank you, we will look at the date and look into developing those.

V. Comments from the Public

Q: Is there an opportunity to assess the population? This has always been a concern. We looked at the Rhody Health Partners population through telephone surveys. How can we as a community show you all the good work we are doing?

A: That's why it is so important to include you. This has great value.

Q: In performing enhanced case management/wrap-around services, we were able to do this within 2 hours by phone. We need an avenue to get this information out there.

A: This is the avenue. We need your input on the Benefits Redesign Workgroup. We

need to know what works and what doesn't.

Q: Is there a time for public comment on the rules?

A: The opportunity for public comment is on May 21. In the future, we intend to seek comment before the rules are filed. The opportunity and structure of rules once filed limits public input.

Q: I'd like to focus on integrating technology. For example the cost of diagnostics is very expensive but the equipment is not used 24/7. Through technology we can free-up equipment for use at a lower cost during off times.

A: We can look at technology in the Workgroups.

Q: One issue is not being adequately informed. Information does not get filtered down in such a way that it is accessible/understandable to people who need it.

A: We will continue to have public forums and look to you for suggestions on how better to communicate.

Q: I'd like to ask the state employees and contractors to introduce themselves. Who will be the primary contact?

A: We are in the process of establishing an e-mail address for the Taskforce to use. It is on your member list. There are five staff on the list as well. The key group includes Johanna Bell Butler, Diana Beaton, Alison Croke, Holly Garvey and myself. Johanna will help us set the agenda, work on getting meeting space, take notes, etc. Additional staff in attendance are Deb Florio and Sharon Kernan.

Q: What are their respective responsibilities?

A: At this point we are all contact people. As the Workgroups form we will further define the responsibilities. Additionally, we will be able to share documents on the ON-TRAK system.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting date, originally scheduled for July 7 at 10 a.m., may be re-scheduled in light of the July 4th holiday.