

**GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010
MEETING MINUTES**

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Sharon K. Brinkworth, Joan Woods (representing Virginia Burke), Jill Beckwith (representing Elizabeth Burke Bryant), Cathy Ciano, Jacqueline L. Downy, Elizabeth Earls, Elaina Goldstein, Rebecca Kislak (Jane Hayward), Mark Heffner, Caitlin Thomas Henkel, Kathleen Kelly, Joan Kiatkowski, Maureen Maigret, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, James Ryczek, Sharon Terzian, Linnea Tuttle, Vivian Weisman

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Holly Garvey, Michael Ryan, Paul Choquette, Lenny Lope, Deb Garneau, Beth Mrootian, Denise Achin, Rebecca Martish, Kathleen Heren, Laura Jones, Carmen Boucher, Lynn DelVecchio, Kathleen Samways, Kim Merolla-Brito, Chris Gadbors, Claire Rosenbaum, Lauren Paul, Janet Iovino, Sue Vandal, Lori Quaranta, Alison Croke, Alan R. Post, Rele Abiade Ritter, Ellen Maura, Jim Benson, Heather Daglieri, Kathy Dennard, Ann Martin, Elena Nicolella

Ms. Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and participants back to the Arnold Center. She announced that item #4 in the agenda would be discussed at the next meeting because the DHS/RIPTA report on transportation is not available yet. Also the status on the State's FY' 11 and FY' 12 budgets are still being discussed and the department is still in the formulation stage due to recent Medicaid changes and the need to present a comprehensive policy package of all EOHHS initiatives. Ms. Martino stated the FY' 11 and FY' 12 budgets will be posted on the EOHHS website and ONTRAK and discussed at the next Global Waiver Task Force meeting. She also commented on the report submitted by EOHHS that will be presented to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee which has been delayed to October 1st because of questions and difficulties with InRhodes regarding eligibility which is another example for why there is a need for the Modernization Committee. Ms. Martino will also post that report shortly on the EOHHS website and ONTRAK.

Ms. Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director, commented on the status of Managed Care Reprourement and the Long Term Care RFI. She stated that there have been category changes to the State's Medical Assistance Program with regards to nursing home methodology and the department is working with CMS in that process. Ms. Nicolella also mentioned that any changes to Category II or III would be connected to any budget issues.

Q: When will Category II be approved?

A: It should be approved shortly.

Ms. Nicolella also commented that the Long Term Care RFI was sent out and focused on a comprehensive system in partnership with DEA but did not include individuals with

disabilities. This system will have challenges but hopefully ideas will be submitted on how to better serve the community out there. She further stated that the Managed Care Reprourement is complete for the contract for Children and Families and individuals with disabilities. There still some work that needs to be done to assure the language is clean and concise.

Kim Merolla-Brito, Chief of Rules and Regulations, announced there was no rule making for Medicaid Assistance. Under Medical Assist Rules there was added language relative to rate setting. Under the Global Waiver, EOHHS did file and is still reviewing comments.

Ms. Martino commented that the annual report under the Real Choices grant has been completed and will be discussed at the next Global Waiver Task Force meeting. The Attorney General Partnership is also moving ahead and the state did receive a planning grant of \$200,000. The Partnership is working with DEA's MIPPA program and did receive Evidence Base Transition grant. DOH received a grant changing cigarette dispensiship and a Healthy Weight grant along with a community planning grant, Health Insurance Exchange - patient Affordability grant. There is also a grant to assist with modernization, which would integrate all eligibilities under medicaid, and a letter of intent is due by Nov 1st. She stated that EOHHS is always exploring the opportunity for major grant proposals. DHS just received \$500,000 performance for SNAP.

Ellen Mauro, Administrator of Medical Services of Institutional/Community Services and Supports, stated that 6 individuals are involved with Share Living. As of 9/1 there are 15 individuals who are also waiting to participate in Shared Living. Out of 21 involved with Nursing Home Transitions, 15 individuals have gone back to their homes. Housing availability has been presented difficulties because of so many referrals and very limited space and unfortunately the department had to streamline that process.

Q: Are people waiting because of community housing placements?

A: 4 to 5 are waiting for transitions.

Q: Are they Medicaid only?

A: Predominately duals but have incorporated skilled nursing for more robust home care.

Q: How long have they waited - can that data be provided?

A: Yes

Relative to healthcare reform readiness, the CMS has issued rules for program integration, which include assessment fees, and additional regulations on providers to show compliance. There will be a very short line relative to respond to the proposed rules but there is nothing on the state side.

Q: Where do you find the rules?

A: Those will be sent.

Elizabeth Earls, CEC spokesperson, introduced the Global Waiver Workgroup Chairs for updates.

Mark Heffner, Chair of the Eligibility Rules Workgroup, discussed the September 9th meeting, which started reviewing 0376 and going forward. He would welcome new members to participate and the next meeting will be on Thursday, October 21st at the Executive Offices of Health and Human Services. Mr. Heffner hopes to have all comments relative to reviews and revisions by November.

Elaina Goldstein, Co-Chair of the Disability Policy Workgroup, discussed her first meeting held in September, which addressed various disabilities across different age spans. It was decided that there is a need for subgroups to address all the issues that need to be reviewed moving forward. Ms. Goldstein stated that this would include prioritizing all the issues, which will include employment, special children and health care, the older population, Katie Beckett, Dual Eligible, and the Sherlock plan and how to incorporate that into recommendations in the future. There is also the need to focus on health care reform and try to understand how that will affect the Medicaid program.

Jim Nyberg, Chair of the Housing Workgroup, had no committee report. That workgroup will meet for the first time on October 14th at 3 p.m. at RIAC. Holly Garvey from EOHHS staff will be assisting this workgroup.

Joan Kwiatkowski, Co-chair of the Evaluation Workgroup, announced that their first meeting would be held on October 21st. The goal of that meeting will be to look at existing EOHHS reports and to explore what other areas can be added to that matrix.

Rebecca Kislak, Co-chair of the Communications Workgroup, stated that a meeting would be held shortly that would focus putting together a panel from diverse backgrounds to discuss how to effectively make communications useful and understandable. The meeting date will be announced at the next Global Waiver meeting.

Q: Will the POINT be included?

A: It is on the list. There is also the need to reach out to the Modernization Committee.

Ms. Martino thanked the Chairs and Co-chairs for their presentations. She commented on the FY'12 budget. She stated that it is difficult to firmly calculate the amount of budget cuts because there maybe a surplus of funds and not knowing if there will be any constraints. Presently, the targeted cuts will amount to about \$150 million.

Q: Is \$100 million cut just in Medicaid at DHS?

A: Yes.

Q: How can we work together and collaborate?

A: We tried to do that last year with some proposals but did not get very many recommendations on how to save money. We welcome ideas and suggestions.

Ms. Nicolella comments that there needs to be a better understanding between departments and providers for a better community services. She stated that she is actively collecting ideas for this year's budget and last year's deficit. There is a concern over utilization and discussion over how to curb those services. She and staff are also examining provider payments and looking at the cost for those services while maintaining program integrity.

Q: Relative to pharmacy cost, have you explored the gap analyst from U Mass?

A: That report needs further discussion.

Q: Has the fee for service been awarded?

A: That award did go out.

Q: Have you looked at the choices for Medicaid done by the Lt. Governor's office?

A: That is still under review by EOHHS staff.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task Force will be held on Monday, October 25, 2010, from 1-3 p.m., at the Arnold Conference Room, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, Rhode Island.