

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
June 27, 2011
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Virginia Burke, Charles Feldman, Mark Heffner, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Judy Sullivan, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward)

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Rebecca Martish, Amy Traver, Aubrey Manning, Jennifer McElroy, Denise Achin, Deborah Garneau, Lori Quararta, Lynn DelVecchio, Christian Heiss, Bobby Gondet, Mary Slinko, Alan Post, Paula Parker, Jean DiPippo, Kathleen Samaways, Kathy Dennard, Ann Martino, Elena Nicolella

Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and other attendees along with thanking Dawn Wardyga for hosting today's meeting at RIPIN.

Ms. Martino recognized **Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director**, who discussed a memorandum sent to members of the task force regarding new options for enhancing the availability of Medicaid-Funded Long-Term Care Service and Supports.
(Presentation Attached)

Kathleen Kelley of the RI Assisted Living Association then asked several budget related questions, including:

Q: Please comment on assisted living reductions and the availability of Medicaid funds.

A: It is my sense that there could be available options and flexibility that may include Medicaid and/or the administrative process. DHS has been working on all the financial options available in order to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible.

Q: Could you please comment on Article 22.

A: This Article contains a very complicated formula that is still being reviewed but DHS is has been reviewing the administrative process. This article really pertains to just for room and board and not services that will mostly effect SSI recipients who are involved with BHDDA.

Q: The state is in the middle of a financial crisis so how will OHHS respond and prioritize?

A: The Secretary and Deputy Secretary discussing numerous options.

Ms. Martino commented that the search for the Community Chairperson has been posted and distributed that posting to the members of the Task Force. She also urged the members to reach out and notify other interested parties who may wish to respond.
(Posting Attached)

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

Ms. Dawn Wardyga, Co-Chair of the Disabilities Workgroup, announced that the scheduled meetings for 2011 will be held and the Disability Community will continue to move forward to provide input for this vulnerable population.

Mr. Mark Heffner, Chair of the LTC Phase I – Rules and Policy Workgroup, commented that his committee have continued to meet and will put together a final report by the end of July.

Mr. Rick Nagle, President and Senior Analyst, Advantage Marketing Information, provided the Caregiver Presentation under the Real Choices grant on behalf of Ninigret Partners.

(Presentation Attached)

Mr. Nagle commented that his analyst focused on the objectives of the Real Choices grant relative to enhanced managed care. An outside consulting firm, the Lewin Associates will review where the savings were achieved along with recommending steps going forward in the rebalancing Long-Term Care. That report will be completed by September 15, 2011. Questions on this topic included:

Q: Are there any comparisons nationally?

A: Yes and that will be part of the final analysis.

Q: Does this analysis only include adults and if so how can the younger population be incorporated?

A: This analysis has been funded under the Real Choices grant and concentrated on the elderly population but Kevin Hively, from Ninigret Partners will give an integrated report at the next Global Waiver meeting.

Ms. Martino thanked Mr. Nagle for his report and then commented on 2011 legislative session which concluded their agenda for the year. Under a new statute, Medicaid will now be under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). The Department of Elderly Affairs and the Veterans Affairs will be under the Department of Human Services and Rules and Procedure will also continue to be under that department. The EOHHS is still reviewing the final FY 2012 budget and further information will be provided at the next Global Waiver meeting. Ms. Martino also stated that the Brown Study of the acuity of people in nursing homes and the Children and Family Pediatric Report would also be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task Force has been scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2011, starting at 1:00 p.m., at the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN), 1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI.