

## GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING

September 26, 2011

### MEETING MINUTES

**Task Force Members Attending:** Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Cathy Ciano, Cathy Cranston, Jacqueline Downy, Elizabeth Earls, Kathleen Kelly, Joan Kwiatkowski, Maureen Maigret, James Nyberg, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward),

**Staff and Members of the Public Attending:** Rebecca Martish, Deborah Garneau, Lori Quararta, Muriel Littlefield, Nancy Peterson, Mary Slinko, Alan Post, Thomas Marcello, Holly Garvey, Kathy Heren, Lisa Conlon, Janet Iovino, Rele Abiade Ritter, Robert Kalaskowski, Roberta Merke, Deb Florio, Alison Croke, Denise Achin, Paul Larrat, Holly Garvey, Diana Beaton, Paula Parker, Bill Flynn, Alison Buckser, Tara Townsend, Beth Marootian, Kathy Dennard, Ann Marino, Elena Nicoletto, Susan Allen, Anthony Salvo

**Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director**, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and other attendees. Ms. Martino commented that the August Global Waiver Task Force was cancelled due to summer commitments that included vacations. She then announced that there were some extraordinary candidates for the Community Chair position and the Secretary had reviewed those applications and would be announcing his decision shortly. Ms. Martino also commented on the AARP Long Term Care scorecard, which ranked Rhode Island number 38 in the country from 2007-2010. Unfortunately, in RI, most of the data was not relevant to the present work being done and there have been major changes in policy since the Global Waiver began.

Ms. Martino stated that the Real Choices grant, which helped to assist the state to adopt a Long Term Care system, would be ending on September 30, 2011. The next Global Waiver Task Force meeting in October will highlight the achievements of this grant during the last four years. An evaluation of Real Choices will be posted on the Executive Office of Health and Human Services website. Ms. Martino announced that the "Ask Rhody" website has been updated based on the findings from the Real Choices grant.

**Ms. Deb Florio, Administrator for the Center for Child and Family Health**, gave an update of the RIte Smiles Program that celebrated their 5-year anniversary. The RIte Smiles program started enrolling young children in 2006 and has increased to about 50,000 children in 2011. The primary focus of the program has been concentrated on the very young children because nationwide data has shown and proven that early emphasis on receiving dental services has reduced major dental complications in the future.

The next agenda item discussed included a review of the FY '12 budget. Ms. Martino announced that she would be unable to discuss the budget at this time due to pending litigation issues relative to disability budget cuts. She did state that EOHHS would continue to work together with CMS on state plan issues.

**Ms. Susan M. Allen**, presented the Brown University Study – Change in the Characteristics of the Rhode Island Medicaid Population in Nursing Homes 2008-2010, which was prepared for the evaluation of the RI Medicaid Program's Real Choices System Transformation Project.

**(Presentation Attached)**

Q: (Vivian Weisman, PSN) Has there been any difficulties with individuals getting through the door?

A: Individuals are not being turned down at SNF (Skilled Nursing Facilities) but there they are being informed of other options which include many available community services.

Q: (Maureen Maigret, LTC) Are SNF still receiving most of their patients from hospitals?

A: Yes, but the direction of intervention continues to be very promising.

Q: (Maureen Maigret, LTC) Could you please comment on the Affordable Care Act and the Rebalancing Program.

A: Elena Nicolella's staff will provide an update at the next meeting but the major option is MFP (Money Follows the Person).

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task will be held on October 24, 2011 at 1 p.m. at the Arnold Conference Center, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, RI.