

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
June 25, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Linda Katz, Joanne Malise, Kathy McKeon, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak

Staff Members and Public Attending: Steven J. Patriarca, Denise Achin, Michael Cancilliere, Deborah Garneau, Ken Parisean, Alison Croke, Jordan Kennedy, Tara Townsend, Jennifer Reid, Jennifer Bergeron, Holly Garvey, John Dooley, Kathleen Heren, Janet Iovino

Senator Tom Izzo, Community Chair, opened the meeting by introducing Kevin Aucoin, DCYF Deputy Director. Mr. Aucoin gave a presentation on the DCYF System of Care changes. He described Phase I of the system of care as a different way of providing and coordinating services. The department, along with private partnerships, has devised creative solutions to improve outcomes. Investigating and identifying the problem in the home makes it easier to immediate action as well as grant access to services. Mr. Aucoin also noted that the number of re-entries into the system has continued to decline.

Senator Izzo mentioned that partnerships between agencies is incredibly important. He also noted the need for more cooperation among providers and consumers.

Q – Linda Katz: Has there been any DHS involvement or coordination with the RI Works program?

A – Kevin Aucoin: These are associated issues. EOHHS has made this a joint effort. A new Data Warehouse will allow us to reduce redundancy and perform cross training. DCYF and DHS both agree that if a child is removed from a home the family will not lose assistance. The departments support the return of the child to the home.

Q – What are the lead agencies in the state that will be working with DCYF on the System of Care?

A – Kevin Aucoin: Family Services as well as Child & Family Services are the two lead agencies in this effort. They will be taking updated data and assigning cases to networks.

Q – Is there any cooperation with school departments?

A – Kevin Aucoin: We are continuously working with school departments. We expect networks to continue to help us with this effort. It is essential for providers, school departments and DCYF to collaborate and know when child will come home.

Q – How do providers collaborate with all different school departments?

A – Kevin Aucoin: This is always a challenge for the department. There is more of a reliance on kin and residence care. We believe the child will be better off with people they are familiar with and have a formed relationship.

Comment - Br. Michael Reis commented that under the Global Waiver, there is the opportunity to look at outcomes needed to drive program and policy decisions to ensure services consistent within each department.

Ann Martino, EOHHS Policy Director, gave an update on regulations. Ms. Martino noted that all of the Medicaid rules are now in EOHHS. She also mentioned that rules that apply to children will have to be rewritten so that they recognize the existence of the exchange. EOHHS is trying to get all departments to look at rules and make them easily understandable for all populations.

Elena Nicoletta, Medicaid Director, provided a brief overview of the FY 2013 Medicaid budget. There were two major changes to the proposed budget and the enacted budget. Cuts to adult dental benefits and nursing home payments were restored in the enacted budget. There were major savings from a decrease in expenditures along with changes in enrollment and utilization. The department is pushing for nutrition counseling and other innovative services. There was also a dramatic change to nursing home payment methodology.

Alison Croke, Xerox State Healthcare, LLC, spoke on the new Integrated Care program within EOHHS. She noted that there will be a centralized e-mail inbox for all inquiries regarding Integrated Care. She also announced a workgroup process where individuals can self select to become a part of 1 of 3 workgroups; Outreach and Information, Services and Supports and Oversight, Monitoring and Continuous Improvement.

Michael Cronan, EOHHS Legislative Liaison, gave a brief summary on the budget articles and legislation affecting EOHHS agencies. Mr. Cronan noted Article 9 of the budget which adjusted licensing fees in the Department of Health and set a \$25 minimum fee for all licenses. Article 18 allowed for Medicaid to be moved into EOHHS along with the HIV/AIDS program.

Ms. Martino closed the meeting and notified the Task Force that the next Global Waiver Task Force meeting will be on July 23, 2012 at the Department of Labor and Training Building 73 (Room 73-1) Cranston, RI.