

**Modernization Initiative Steering Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2010**

**Attendees:** Gary Alexander, Gerry Bedrick, Deborah Buffi, Tom Marcello, Kim Merolla Brito, Art Schnure, EOHHS; Elizabeth Burke Bryant and Stephanie Geller, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT; Leon Saunders, DCYF/MHRH; Ann Mulready, Rhode Island Disability Law Center; Jeff Mancini, Rhode Island Community Action Association; Hector Rivera, DLT.

**Update on the Work Groups and Co-Chairs**

Stephanie Geller and Deborah Buffi provided an update on the leadership of the work groups, noting that some groups are being combined for efficiency and others are under new leadership due to the desire to have both a community and state co-chair leading each group. The DHS Simplification Work Group will be co-chaired by Linda Katz and Deborah Buffi. The Medium and Long Term Planning and Information Work Groups will be combined into one Technology Work Group with Phil Silva and Stephanie Geller as co-chairs and subgroups addressing shorter-term technology improvements, including the structure and content of websites, as well as longer-term improvements, which may include a benefits screener and/or web applications. Ann Mulready has agreed to co-chair the MHRH Simplification Work Group along with someone from DCYF leadership (probably Jorge Garcia).

To do: Gary Alexander will send an email out to the entire Modernization Committee describing each of the Work Groups and summarizing the groups' missions, leadership, and membership.

**Global Waiver Task Force and Modernization**

Deborah Buffi and Elizabeth Burke Bryant noted that the Global Waiver Task Force and Long Term Care Simplification and Access Work Groups have overlapping missions, and there are many "connectors," people working on both initiatives (e.g., Linda Katz, Art Schnure). In order to avoid slowing down the work of either group, EOHHS has decided that most of the Long Term Care Simplification work will be handled through GWTF processes.

To do: Elena Nicollela will develop a work plan and share this plan with the Modernization group.

**Update from the Committees' Work**

- DHS Simplification Work Group – Stephanie Geller provided an update. Stacy Dean and Dottie Rosenbaum from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) were invited to attend the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to share information about best practices in other states and advise the group about short- and long-term strategies for streamlining access to DHS benefits. They focused their attention on strategies for streamlining the recertification and verification processes. They advised that Rhode Island collect data on the number of cases that close at recertification time and then reopen within 30 days and that we determine the reasons these cases closed. They also reviewed strategies for streamlining

recertification, including aligning renewal periods across programs and reducing verification/documentation requirements. Next steps include developing a data request, determining what strategies for streamlining recertification we should pursue, and looking at how technology could help (e.g., scanning, data matching, and data monitoring).

To do: Send out electronic versions of the materials CBPP presented to the full group.

- Information Work Group – Art Schnure provided an update. The group met on April 6<sup>th</sup> and conducted an inventory of programs by agency, reviewed existing websites that might serve as a good model (e.g., RI.gov), and looked at how other states organized the information on their websites (e.g., Massachusetts might be a good model).
- Medium and Long Term Care Work Group – This work group had not met since the last Steering Committee meeting; however, Stephanie Geller provided information on a webinar that was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> and that focused on Utah's eREP system. The webinar described how Utah modernized its system by improving business processes, developing a new and improved phone system, developing an on-line application system, conducting electronic data matches, etc. She distributed a Power Point application from the webinar and noted that an audio recording of the webinar is available at [www.governing.com/webinars](http://www.governing.com/webinars).

#### **Other Updates**

- Some of the work of the Modernization Initiative has been delayed because state agencies and community groups alike have been busy addressing the needs of Rhode Island residents affected by the flooding. In fact, many were not able to attend this meeting because they were involved in setting up and managing permanent and temporary/mobile disaster centers.
- Gary Alexander met with representatives from Wisconsin and they are willing to give us their entire website for free because it is in the public domain.

#### **Next Steering Committee Meeting**

**May 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the West Wing Conference Room of the Louis Pasteur Building**

#### **Next Full Committee Meeting**

**June 9, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. in the Arnold Conference Center**