

**GLOBAL WAIVER IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE
OCTOBER 25, 2010
MEETING MINUTES**

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Leo Canuel, Elaina Goldstein, Caitlin Thomas Henkel, Margaret Holland McDuff, Kathleen Kelly, Joan Kiatkowski, Maureen Maigret, Everett Maxwell, Kathy McKeon, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Judy Sullivan, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga, Vivian Weisman, Rebecca Kislak (representing Jane Hayward), Jill Beckwith (representing Elizabeth Burke Bryant)

Staff and Members of the Public Attending: Claire Rosenbaum, Lee Baker, Kim Merolla-Brito, Chris Gadbois, David Bell, Lori Rossi, Susan Vandal, Adrianna Thomas, Alan R. Post, Patrice Cooper, Deb Garneau, Sharon Kernan, Beth Marootian, Holly Garvey, Denise Achin, John E. Farely, Heather Daglieri, Michael Ryan, Ralph Racca, Linda Ward, Cathy Cranston, Paul Choquette, Janet Iovino, Alison Croke, Ellen Mauro, Lynn DelVecchio, Ann Martino, Elena Nicolella, Kathy Dennard, Diana Beaton, Mary Slinko

Director Attending: Corinne Calise Russo

Ms. Joan Kwiatkowski, CEC Spokesperson, opened the meeting by welcoming Task Force members and participants. She then introduced the Global Waiver Workgroup Chairs for their updates.

Mr. Jim Nyberg, Chair of the House Workgroup, no committee report but did announce that his group did meet on October 14th for a brief discussion. The Workgroup focused their remarks on how to promote and integrate housing in the state. There was also discussion on suggestions for the Money Follows the Person grant opportunity that would reduce barriers to housing and opportunities under the proposed revisions to Section 202 housing regulations.

Ms. Dawn Wardyga, Co-Chair of the Disability Policy Workgroup, announced that her workgroup will be meeting again and had no committee report.

Ms. Rebecca Kislak, Co-Chair of the Communications Workgroup, announced that her group is still taking names of individuals who like to be involved in this workgroup. She is hoping to have an organizational meeting before the next Global Waiver and would give a committee report.

Ms. Kwiatkowki, Co-Chair of the Evaluation Workgroup, stated that her group met on October 21st. The focus of that meeting centered on looking at the Global Waiver legislation and exploring different ways to compliment the existing document and also how to more easily measure data. She hoped to provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Maureen Maigret, a member of the Eligibility Rules Workgroup, spoke about their workgroup meeting on October 21st, which was productive and focused on Medicaid

rules pertaining to Long Term Care. They are reviewing the rules and will be making recommendations. Their next meeting is November 19, 2010 at EOHHS.

Q: Is there anything specific that EOHHS/DHS needs in response to making recommendations productive? We need some guidance and need to know what the state needs from the workgroups.

A: Ms. Martino replied that every workgroup has a different focus and presently all the departments are awaiting the direction of a new administration. Ms. Nicolella identified two issues that will need to be addressed immediately that would require changes in law and regulations to Category II and Global Waiver, which will need to be developed moving forward.

Ms. Nicolella reported that the DHS/RIPTA report regarding the statewide transportation findings is not public yet but will be discussed at the next Global Waiver meeting. She also commented that the background check initiative would be delayed until the new administration takes office and the Attorney General's Office is taking the lead on this initiative.

EOHHS Reports

1. DHS/RIPTA report – has not been issued yet
2. SFY 11 and SFY 12 budget – no report given
3. Managed long-term care RFI was sent to the Purchasing office on 10/5/10.
4. Report to the Senate was posted to the DHS website, and staff offered to take questions if there were any.
5. EOHHS grants
 - a. DHS met with the Attorney General's office to discuss the background check grant. Work on this will commence again after the election.
 - b. Have a call scheduled with CMS to get an update on the grant related to the multi-payer demonstration initiative (CSI).

Ms. Ellen Mauro, Administrator of Medical Services of Institutional/Community Services and Supports, updated the number of nursing home transitions. To date, there have been 165 individuals transitioned back into the community and only one failure. She stated that her department has done tracking for 2010 by Connect Choice and Connect Care. 32 of these individuals were transitioned after 7/1/10 – 2 went to assisted living, and 30 went home.

Q: Have there been any diversion from Eleanor Slater Hospital?

A: There is already a diversion process for Eleanor Slater.

Q: Is there an insurance breakout for the clients who were transitioned?

A: All diversions are Medicaid-only clients.

Q: How is diversion identified?

A: Nurses track this as an intervention.

Ms. Martino commented on the need to receive information from all 5 social agencies as a whole and to track all those diversion. Connect Care nurses do the tracking in the home and community setting. There are also four nurses who do diabetic teaching, which helps in reaching out into the community. Nurses are there in long-term settings and are very connected with families in helping to avoid nursing homes. She also stated that diversions are just Medicaid only and there are very few Medicaid dual eligibilities.

Ms. Sharon Kernan, DHS Administrator, gave an update on Shared Living under the Global Waiver. She stated that there are presently 7 individuals in this program and 5 additional participants in process, and 20 under review. She commented that the Providence Journal story recently sparked more interest in the program, which allows for home visits in a safe and affordable environment. DHS has begun meeting monthly with the agencies, and also have started home visits.

Ms. Nicolella commented on the Personal Choice program which enable individuals to make choices over the hiring of personal care attendants (PCAs) but those hire must all meet the same level of care. She discussed a recent survey that found the cost per person of this program to be higher then other programs. After reviewing the data, it was discovered that there is a flaw in the methodology and it will be reassessed with better system and time frame.

Q: Why were the costs higher?

A: The automated budgeting program used by DHS was not equitable or accurate. DHS does not specify whom a person can hire or what they will pay.

Q: Please comment on Personal Choice and the PARIWaiver

A: There are about 370 individuals in this program, which is very costly.

Q: Did these individuals receive a DD waiver? It was my understanding that the Global Waiver would do away with all previous waivers.

A: It did but now they are classified as Core and Managed Services, which were previously were waiver programs.

Ms. Nicolella announced the Discharge Planners Training Conference that will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Radisson. The purpose of the conference will to obtain feedback on the promotional discharge planning videos and the recent brochures that have sent to community agencies instead of nursing homes.

Ms. Martino announced two grants being pursued by the department which were announced by the Ford Foundation that would assist in improve services with SNAP, RIteCare, Child Care, and RI Works. The draft applications are due this week. There is a one-year grant for planning and other grant is for 4-5 years that would be used to better integrate these services throughout the social service agencies. She also mentioned that Secretary Gary Alexander will be making a decision shortly on the appointment of another CEC member who represents children and family issues.

Kimberly Merolla-Brito, Chief of Rules and Regulations, commented on the Senate Report and making a minor change in expenditure report from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, which will be corrected and also be posted on the EOHHS website.

Corinne Calise Russo, Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs, announced that her department would be responding to grants from CMS and AoA. There has been a great emphasis nationally to focus on the Senior Medicare Patrol program along with Quality Health Care partners. DEA is currently gearing up for Part B enrollment.

Several announcements were made including:

- Interfaith initiative
- David Sienko – new Special Ed Director
- Request for CNOM breakout on Senate report
- Clarification on background check project
- Employment 1st Summit

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Implementation Task Force will be held on Monday, November 22, 2010, from 1-3 p.m., at the Arnold Center Conference Room, Eleanor Slater Hospital, Cranston, Rhode Island.