

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
July 23, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, Joanne Malise, Donna Martin, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Michelle Brophy, Michael Varadian, Sharon Terzian, Vivian Weisman, Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Cathy Ciano, Charles Feldman, Rebecca Kislak

Staff Members and Public Attending: Thomas Marcello, Steven J. Patriarca, Lori Quarantu, Kathleen Heren, Carla Russo, Tara Townsend, Laura Gomes, Mathew Cox, Elena Nicolella, Michael Cancilliere, Alda Rego, Mary Slinko, Jennifer Reid, Deb Garneau, Cristina Amedeo, Ellen Mauro, Holly Garvey, Janet Iovino, Lynn Delvecchio, Lisa Conlan, Ann Martino, Senator Tom Izzo, Anthony Salvo

Senator Tom Izzo, Community Chair, opened the meeting by following up on an issue from the June GWTF meeting. Senator Izzo told the task force that he has sent a letter to Department of Human Services Director Sandra Powell seeking clarification on the \$250,000 payment for SSI recipients in assisted living residences. The director and her staff are still working on implementation.

Question: Vivian Weisman – Are any assisted living homes getting close to closing?
Answer: Ann Martino – No knowledge of any assisted living homes closing.

Senator Izzo also told the task force that a small ad hoc group could be created to address DCYF issues. Anyone interested in becoming part of such group should contact Anthony Salvo, asalvo@dhs.ri.gov. He also noted that EOHHS is working on a piece that would chronologically show what initiatives the office has been working on and how they work together.

Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director, had two announcements for the task force. Ms. Nicolella noted that John Young, EOHHS Deputy Secretary has retired. She also introduced Alda Rego as the Chief Budget Officer for EOHHS.

Debra Buffi, DHS Associate Director, gave a presentation on the Ford Foundation grant. Ms. Buffi spoke to the task force on the grounds for DHS applying for and receiving the grant. The ultimate goal of the grant is to provide funds for modernizing the current system. Streamlining access to benefits is a key aspect of the grant. Working families will have added supports to assist in the process of receiving SNAP, child care, medical assistance as well as cash assistance. The department initially applied for and received a \$250,000 planning grant from the Ford Foundation. For one year the department along with the Urban Institute and Ford Foundation conducted value process mapping of field operations. The Southern Institute worked with DHS staff and looked at every step in the application/benefit process. After a year of the planning the grant the department then had to come with a plan for implementation. Rhode Island was one of 6

states to receive the implementation grant which will total \$1.3 million over 3 years. The implementation plan focuses on coordinating services and re-engineering the business process. DHS staff will be more task oriented rather than case oriented. This plan will also involve communicating with clients to educate them as to which benefits they are eligible for and which they are entitled to receive. Eligibility will be determined in one place in order to minimize unnecessary repetition. The Ford Foundation will provide technical assistance to the department while making sure RI is accountable for all grant money spent.

Question: What is the status of the benefit screener on Ask Rhody?

Answer: There are technical issues being worked out between HP and SAIC. Both HP and SAIC are in the process of exchanging information. There is no timetable for project completion.

Ellen Mauro, Administrator, Office of Institutional and Community-Based Services and Supports, gave a presentation on the Integrated Care Initiative. See attached presentation. Senator Izzo asked how the structure of EOHHS enables integration to occur among the separate departments. Ms. Nicolella noted that integrated care is trying to address the issue of integrating funding with other departments. Ms. Mauro also gave an update on the Money Follows the Person/ Nursing Home Transition Project. There have been 527 referrals from the start of the year with most individuals returning to their homes. However, Ms. Mauro noted that housing continues to be a problem for the project.

Ms. Nicolella also spoke to the Task Force about the Personal Choice program. The program presents individuals with an alternative to traditional ways of accessing care. Individuals can self-direct care for themselves. Funding was previously given out based upon needs which lead to an issue of equity among participants. There were two public hearings to address the rule changes. There has also been a second level of review so that budgets do not get drastically reduced.

Ms. Martino closed the meeting and notified the Task Force that the next Global Waiver Task Force meeting will be on August 27, 2012 at the Department of Labor and Training Building 73 (Room 73-1) Cranston, RI.