

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
April 22, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Sharon Brinkworth, Virginia Burke, Jim Beasley, Cathy Ciano, Jacqueline Downy, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maignet, Joanne Malise, Kathy McKeon, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Michael Varadian, Sharon Terzian, Vivian Weisman

Staff Members and Public Attending: Ken Pareseau, Susan Jacobsen, Denise Achin, Darren McDonald, Holly Garvey, Diana Beaton, Deidre Gifford, Jenn Bergeron, Jennifer Reid, Paula Hodges, Catherine Taylor, Lindsay McAllister, Roberta Merkel, Laura Jones, Susan Vandal, Anthony Salvo, Elena Nicolella, Sen. Thomas Izzo

Senator Thomas Izzo, Community Chair, opened the meeting by notifying the task force members that representatives from DCYF will be attending the May task force meeting.

Elena Nicolella, EOHHS, spoke a few changes that the task force can expect in the coming months. The goal is to have a more cross-departmental approach for the task force. The task force will have a broader perspective and focus on how Medicaid and other funding streams are working together. Discussions will also have a new approach to new and available data. We will also take full advantage of other forums and similar discussions across the state. There will be shared information from the Lt. Governor's office and the other departments under the authority of EOHHS.

Ms. Nicolella also provided the task force with an update on the 1115 waiver extension. The 1115 waiver that was submitted to CMS was deemed incomplete. CMS noted that we did not provide proper public notice on budget neutrality and tribal consultation. The federal government is also looking for specific fiscal analysis and evaluation of plans around programs included in the waiver. We are working with CMS to work out any issues regarding the challenges around developing any fiscal analyses. There is also progress being made around the Unified Health Infrastructure Project. The Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange and the Department of Human Services (DHS) are working together on a robust automated eligibility system for numerous programs within DHS. An RFP has been issued for a contact center that will assist anyone applying for benefits online. We are currently planning for an October 1, 2013 effective date.

Question – Senator Izzo – Where does the Health Insurance Exchange sit in Rhode Island government?

Answer – Elena Nicolella – The exchange was created through an executive order by Governor Chafee thus sits in the executive branch under the jurisdiction of the governor.

Ms. Nicolella also provided a brief update on the implementation of the affordable care act. There will be an expansion of the Medicaid program to include everyone 138% FPL

or under. We are working on seeing how this will affect some federally funded grant programs. We will also be looking at unique populations such as pregnant women and prisoners who re-enter the system.

Question – Ken Pariseau – In regards to outreach and education, will there be input from providers for a statewide effort to inform the public that the Medicaid expansion is happening?

Answer – Elena Nicolella – Yes, we are developing a strategic plan for outreach and marketing in conjunction with the Health Insurance Exchange.

Ms. Nicolella also notified the task force of the Caseload Estimating Conference scheduled for Monday April 29. The conference will showcase where the state is in terms of spending and where we assume we will be in the coming year. We will be presenting trends and cost lines on items. An update will be provided to the task at the May 20th meeting.

Deidre Gifford, EOHHS, provided an update on the State Innovation Model Grant. Ms. Gifford explained to the task force that Rhode Island is a recipient of a model design grant. This means that RI will be given \$1 million for a 6 month planning period. The emphasis of the grant will be focused on overall public health including public, private and community. There will be a number of subgroups attached to this project tasked with providing feedback and soliciting public input.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Task Force is scheduled for Monday May 20, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., location to be determined.