

GLOBAL WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
March 25, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Paul Block, Virginia Burke, Leo Canuel, Kathleen Kelly, Maureen Maigret, James Nyberg, Br. Michael Reis, Michael Varadian, Sharon Terzian, Dawn Wardyga

Staff Members and Public Attending: Tom Marcello, Kathy Heren, Paula Russo, Darren McDonald, Denise Achin, Ellen Mauro, Diana Beaton, Holly Garvey, Deborah Garneua, Steven J. Patriarca, Jenn Bergeron, Jennifer Reid, Michael Cancielliere, Paula Parker, Tara Townsend, Amanda Clarke, Rebecca Ross, Michelle Szylin, Lindsay McAllister, Roberta Merkel, Anthony Salvo, Ann Martino, Sen. Thomas Izzo

Ann Martino, EOHHS, opened the meeting by welcoming the task force members and presented a Medicaid initiatives matrix. Ms. Martino noted the recent sequestration cuts as well as the current state deficit. She also spoke on the recent submission of the 1115 waiver extension to CMS. Anyone who would like a copy of the waiver should contact Anthony (asalvo@dhs.ri.gov).

Q – Dawn Wardyga – In regards to integrated care, when it came I thought it meant fully integrated? Any reason why it only applies to sub-populations and not all ages?

A – Ann Martino – These will eventually apply/extend to all.

Q – Dawn Wardyga – With any initiative, how will this impact other populations and how will we protect them?

A – Ann Martino – EOHHS has a commitment to address the life cycle, people with special needs etc. There is always some separation with services because of the separate funding streams.

Ms. Martino also spoke on issues regarding prisoners. The department is working with the Department of Corrections to make sure prisoners are applying for SSI in a timely manner and have services immediately. We will also ensure that people who have been detained will not lose Medicaid benefits while they are detained. EOHHS is also working on addressing the issue of housing. The focus will be on providing populations with services that allow them to retain their housing. A new program integrity unit has been established in EOHHS to target fraud and abuse in the Medicaid system. There is currently an RFP out for vendors.

Mike Cronan, EOHHS Legislative Liaison, provided the task force with an update on all legislative matters of EOHHS. He spoke on a number of upcoming bills concerning background checks for personal care attendants and the elderly. There are also concerns around legislation to put video cameras in nursing homes. Other bills in the assembly will put a moratorium on new nursing home licenses, increase the SSI enhancement reimbursement and a drug return/exchange program.

Dr. Deidre Gifford, EOHHS, gave a presentation on the Quality Grant that Rhode Island recently received. Rhode Island was one of 26 states to receive the 2-year grant from CMS. The three main tasks of the grant are to collect, analyze and report on a core set of data. Please see attached presentation.

Senator Izzo, Community Chair, closed the meeting by noting the concern among the task force that there is a lack of attention being given to children's issues. There is some Medicaid money that does go to providers and falls under the jurisdiction of the task force. He also mentioned having a task force meeting with DCYF representatives present that could take questions from members.

The next meeting of the Global Waiver Task Force is scheduled for Monday April 22, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Arnold Conference Center, Eleanor Slater Hospital.