

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Illinois Long Term Care Council
June 21, 2011**

ATTENDING:

Council Members Present: Lee Beneze (Co-chair), Ben Brown, Tony DelGiorno, Pam Edelman-Sall, Ann Ford, Eva Hall, John Hosteny, Myrtle Klauer, Phyllis Mitzen, Margaret Niederer, Robyn O'Neill, Sally Petrone, David Sutor, David Vinkler, and Tami Wacker.

Council Members Absent: Pat Comstock, Gwen Diehl, Sergeant Todd Trautvetter, Rebecca Harshbarger, and Bill Bell.

Department of Healthcare and Family Services – Sharon Woods

Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs: Doree Vetter - proxy for Gwen Diehl

Illinois Department of Public Health: Rick Dees - proxy for Bill Bell

Recorder: Kathy Seketa-Stefancic

CALL TO ORDER AND INITIAL MATTERS:

The Long Term Care Council was called to order at 10:01 am, on June 21st, by Co-Chair Lee Beneze. The meeting was held via conference call and at 130 West Mason, in Springfield.

It was determined that there was a quorum for the meeting. Following a round of introductions, the March 22, 2011, meeting minutes were approved (DeGiorno/Ford). After the approval, at which point she was away from the meeting, Margaret Niederer suggested several corrections, which were noted by the recorder: to the "**Other Future Items for Discussion**" – deletion of "and the White Paper of the Ombudsman Program is revisiting the stated goals of the Council," and addition of "responsibilities in accord with the 2010 Report of the Council" at the end of the same sentence.

All members were reminded of the need to review, complete and sign the required ethics training certification form.

ELECTION OF NEW CO-CHAIR

Ben Brown of the Nominations Committee reported that Tami Wacker had filed with the Committee her candidacy for election to Co-chair. The vote to elect a new Co-chair was called and Tami Wacker Co-chair was unanimously elected.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

Illinois Department of Public Health

Rick Dees, Chief of Bureau of Long Term Care, gave a report on the activities of the Department of Public Health, including an update on the status of the rules.

The question was raised as to consideration of hiring activity professionals. Rick stated that IDPH is going to be focusing on social issues such as substance abuse especially as for those that are being placed back in society.

Sally Petrone mentioned that the statistical information on the IDPH website was dated 2006, and other events listed were up to two years old. The Council had decided at the last meeting to address IT issues at IDPH with a letter – that is still in process.

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Sharon Woods made the report on the activities of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

She reported that Kelly Cunningham is now new Deputy Director, Division of Medical Programs.

Sharon also stated that the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) required rulemaking involves major changes in eligibility; hundreds of pages of public comments were received, it then went to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), and JCAR prohibited the rule from being promulgated. The proposed rules can be found at Illinois Register, August, 2010.

State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Sally Petrone made the report on the activities of the State Long Term Care Program. She reported that the Program has had considerable turnover in the last fourteen months, with five new Regional Ombudsmen.

As to the MFP, over 750 referrals have been received to date. The Department on Aging is procuring more funds for MFP. There was a discussion of the barriers to making MFP more useful.

Tami was asked to take the lead on this issue. David Vinkler said barriers have been talked about in other groups, and felt that the MFP had not been as successful as it should have been. Tami said she would look into what has been done and advise as to a next step.

Sally reported that Level I training is being revamped to include more about mental health issues and more on supportive living.

There was discussion regarding financial exploitation. Sally said training has been held. It is still an ongoing problem; but a tool kit for ombudsman has recently been developed.

Other Reports

Doree Vetter of the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs stated everything there was going well; there was no waiting list for the facility in Quincy, and background checks with the Illinois State Police were also going very well.

ANNUAL REPORT

It was noted that Phyllis Mitzen and Margaret Niederer put together the first annual report last year. Within that report was an outline of four Council goals for 2011 – organized by statutory mandate. There was a discussion as each was reviewed.

Mandate I:

What can the Council do? It was suggested that the Council can take positions on legislation and make comments on rules. In addition to legislation, some rulemakings will be worthy of comment.

Lee stated his preference that the new co-chair, because she is not a state employee, sign off on comments on legislation and rulemakings. Robyn O'Neil and Margaret Niederer offered to track the rules. Dave said he will assist as much he can. The Council agreed to input from Sally, Sharon, and Rick, and Sharon.

Mandate II:

Margaret stated that nothing has been done yet on Pioneer practices as a lot of nursing homes are not aware of it or say they can't do anything because of having an old building. She suggested that the Council can initiate a public education campaign.

Rick said there is a need to develop a set of regulations addressing design issues. Tami said the ombudsmen are still working with basics on quality of life such as having a plant in the resident 's room.

Lee asked what exactly the Council can do on this issue. One suggestion was to change the Resident Rights brochure to modernize and provide guidance – Myrtle offered to help with new brochure. Margaret made a motion that the Council send a letter to the Department of Public Health (IDPH) suggesting an emphasis by surveyors on the value of person centered care; prepare a joint letter from Council and IDPH in reviewing rules and laws where person centered care could be enhanced; and increase and promote person-centered care. The motion was seconded by Myrtle Klauer and adopted.

Mandate III

The Council discussed monitoring the actions of the Older American Services Advisory Committee (OASAC). Margaret made a motion that a letter to OASAC be sent, asking them if we could be of assistance in their work. Ann Ford seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mandate IV

There was a discussion of better publicizing the dates, times, places, and call-in numbers for the Council meetings. There was a suggestion to publicize meeting dates on websites such as IDoA and AARP. It was suggested that the call-in number, instead of the location, be publicized. Tami suggested having a post where people could e-mail questions and ask for responses. It was mentioned that the website needed to be updated including posting the latest meeting minutes. It was suggested that the Council seek a UIS graduate student to assist in updating website information. Sally said she would check into seeing if minutes have been posted lately.

A motion was made by Margaret Niederer to instruct Lee to look into publishing via newsletters and web sites. Ann Ford seconded, and the motion was adopted.

REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT ON LOCATION OF THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

By consent, this agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

LEGISLATION AND RULEMAKING

A two page summary of 2011 General Assembly legislation was handed out.

Lee Beneze commented on the status of important current rulemakings, and suggested that proposed rules should be reviewed by Council members. It was noted that the Department of Public Health has review committee that has a quarterly public meeting; Sally Petrone sits on that group.

Tami offered to look at all past letters that have been sent out by the Council. She offered to keep track of future letters.

To track proposed rules, Tony DelGiorno recommended going to the "Flynn Report," which can be found on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules website. It is posted every Friday, and includes the time period for public comments. Tony said he would e-mail the web site address to everyone.

Attention was turned to the four letters to be signed by the Council Co-chair, addressed to the Governor, regarding four bills that were discussed in the last meeting. Tony DelGiorno had drafted the letters. The letters advised the Governor on the positions of the Council on several pieces of legislation.

A motion was made by Ann to have the draft letters signed by the Council Co-chair and sent; Dave Sutor seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS AND SETTING OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE

Rick Dees reported on the MR/DD legislative revisions to the Nursing Home Care Act regarding ICF/DD facilities. There was a consensus was to not do anything with this bill.

There was a suggestion was to have Council letterhead with its mission printed on it so receivers would know who the Council is. The question was from what budget this expenditure would come. Lee agreed to look into this.

The Council was reminded that on July 6, 2011, at the Elder Rights Conference, there would be a public forum. Several legislators have been invited to participate as testifying witnesses. It is anticipated that State Representatives Greg Harris and Mary Flowers, and State Senator Heather Stean, and perhaps others, would participate.

There was a brief discussion of the posted testimony from the December, 2010, public hearing. Tami agreed to look at any comments that might be acted upon in the testimony.

There was a discussion of posting the corrected meetings minutes and updated Council by-laws on the website.

There was discussion of the use of proxies in the meetings. It was decided that a person could be represented by proxy according to the by-laws. It was suggested that proxies be listed in the minutes.

The next scheduled Council meeting date was set for October 4, 2011 in Springfield, with a teleconference call-in.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.