



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Services Work Group

Date: January 28, 2008

Attending: Carol Aronson (Co-Chair), Paul Bennett, Marianne Brennan, Pat Stacy Cohen, Kelly Cunningham, Donna Ginther, Joyce Gusewelle, Marsha Johnson, James Merrill, Robin Morgan, Margaret Niederer, Michael O'Donnell, Amy Paschedag, Mary Patton, Sally Petrone, Tarry Plattner, Janice Ringenberg, Karen Schainker, Dave Vinkler (Co-Chair) and Debbie Weber

Guest: Shelly Ebbert

Discussion Summary:

- Introduction and approval of the November 19, 2007 minutes.
- Robin reminded members that January 31 was the last day of open enrollment for members to re-enroll in workgroups. Robin read a list of current members that have submitted an enrollment form. She encouraged members to contact those members that had not yet submitted their forms to do so prior to January 31.
- Mike O'Donnell provided a follow-up to the November meeting discussion on Medication Management. Mike shared with the group a report on medication management that was developed by I4A. The report outlines programs in each PSA within the state and challenges and opportunities that face the state.
- Paul Bennett presented on Service Gaps and his work on the system change grant for the Department. His presentation focused on information obtained during focus group interviews. The report addressed access to service, caregivers, current services, service gaps, and new services that were needed.
 - **Access to Services** – the primary way people found out about services was “word of mouth”. Rural areas stated brochures, health fairs, newspapers and presentations were helpful. Urban areas used 311 or Chicago Department on Aging’s 800 phone number. Caregivers learn about services through case managers or other key informants, brochures, the internet or support groups. Information supported a need for a universal statewide name or brand since many people expressed confusion on names of agencies. People also do not like talking to automated phone systems. They want to talk to a real person and to have their messages returned.
 - **Current Services** – there is a high satisfaction with current services but they expressed that there is a lack of choices in services and that housing options are not affordable.
 - **Service gaps** – there is a need for a program that allows someone to do little things like change a light bulb, fix broken steps or screen doors, etc. There is also a need for medical specialists in rural areas, affordable dental care, more housing options, more respite services and emergency respite care. There was also frustration at the community disparity. You might be able to get one service in one area but not in another.
 - **New Services** – there is a need for emergency respite care that would be available in a moments notice, medical specialists in rural communities and medication management services.

- Shelly Ebbert presented on Money Follows the Person and the Home Again Enhanced Transition program. Shelly explained how MFP was a major federal initiative and part of the deficit reduction act. HFS is the lead state agency on this initiative along with members from Aging, ORS, DD, and MH. The aging program will build off strengths in the Home Again demonstration program. The Department is currently convening advisory groups with stakeholders to help with the service design elements. MFP will defer from Home Again in a few major ways. Participants must have been in nursing facility for at least 60 days in MFP and they must be Medicaid eligible. Currently, neither of those requirements exist in the Home Again program. Many decisions are yet to be made on this program. The operational protocol is due in to the federal government by mid-April.

Next Steps:

- The November meeting minutes will be posted on the Department's website. The website address is www.state.il.us/aging/1athome/oasa/committee.htm.
- The OASAC report is being printed and should be available at the next meeting. Robin will bring copies for everyone.
- The February meeting will be held on the third Tuesday (February 19) due to the state holiday and will include a presentation on Housing with Services and the committee will review previous recommendations and pending legislation.

Meeting Schedule:

This committee meets on the third Monday of the month from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm at the AARP office in Springfield. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19 (** This is the third Tuesday of the month due to the State Holiday). Future meeting dates are:

- March 17, 2008
- April 21, 2008
- May 19, 2008
- June 16, 2008
- July 21, 2008