

**Wisconsin Council on Long Term Care
Meeting of January 4, 2011**

Approved Minutes

Members present: Beth Anderson, Karen Avery, Judy Braun, Lynn Breedlove, Heather Bruemmer, Devon Christianson, Dana Cyra, Carol Eschner, Caroline Feller, Bob Kellerman, Todd Romenesko, Chris Sarbacker, Stephanie Stein

Members absent: Teri Buros, Mike Linton, Jennifer Ondrejka, John Sauer

Others present: Nino Amato (for Mike Linton), Lorraine Barniskis, Fredi Bove, Sue Schroeder, Donna McDowell, Lea Kitz, Katy Geiger, Ann Marie Ott, Michael Blumenfeld, Monica Deignan, Teresa Perez, Colleen Rincken, Carrie Molke, Rolf Hanson (via phone)

Chair Heather Bruemmer called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Update and Council recommendations on reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

Stephanie Stein and Heather Bruemmer summarized key points of their respective testimonies before Senator Kohl's committee on reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. The Act's strength is the structure it creates to enable advocacy and the full participation of older people. Given the rapid increase in the number of elders, it is very important that current services under the act be preserved and that funding be increased. Particularly important among these core services are legal services, family caregiver support programs, nutrition and transportation. Aging and Disability Resource Centers have been funded in various states through temporary project grants. Wisconsin's ADRCs are the model for the country, and they have been proven to be very effective wherever they have been implemented. ADRCs should be made a permanent part of the OAA's language and funding. Given that they serve both elders and younger people with disabilities, the language should require strong working relationships and joint governance by elderly people and people with disabilities. There is great variation in the strength and effectiveness of Ombudsman programs across the country. The OAA should strengthen the authority and funding for these crucial advocacy and protection programs to assure greater uniformity across the states.

On a motion by Lynn Breedlove, seconded by Chris Sarbacker, the Council voted unanimously to convey to Senator Kohl the Council's support for the reauthorization, with the above specific recommendations. It was noted that the budget appropriation is just as important as reauthorization and that members should convey their support to the Wisconsin Congressional delegation for sufficient funding.

Update on new evaluation of ADRC information and assistance functions

Carrie Molke distributed a summary of an evaluation of ADRC information and assistance services. The full report (91 pages) will be available on the DHS website. Information and assistance accounts for 90% of all ADRC contacts. The evaluation was funded by a federal Administration on Aging grant to develop quality assurance and improvement processes. The goal of the evaluation was to show (1) how customers define quality, (2) identify what ADRCs are doing well and (3) what could be improved within individual ADRCs and statewide. The evaluation is based on a lengthy survey of over 2300 ADRC customers. Overall, results were quite positive. (See handout or full report for details.)

Development of Council recommendations related to the 2011-13 budget

The Council voted unanimously to convey several recommendations to Secretary Smith related to the 2011-13 biennial budget, and noted several specific points that should be included. The major recommendation is that Family Care and IRIS should be expanded to the balance of the state according to the original timetable. The Council also recommended that ADRCs be expanded as planned, and that they be funded according to the Department's most recent cost model. A further recommendation was that caution be used in any reductions of Medicaid card service rates, since many elderly people and people with disabilities depend solely on these services.

Comments from the public

There were no public comments.

Update on development of Family Care in the northeast part of the state

Rolf Hanson, Planning Director for Northeast WI Family Care, and Council member Devon Christianson of Brown County ADRC updated the Council on plans and current activities to begin Family Care in the seven-county region. After three years of intensive planning, a Family Care District has been established, including Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Oconto, Marinette, Menominee and Shawano Counties. Three tribes have also been planning partners. Organization building is underway, with a planned start date of March 2012. See NEW FC's website at <http://northeastwisconsinfamilycare.com/> for detailed information about their status and activities.

2009-10 External Quality Review Report

Ann Marie Ott and Katy Geiger of MetaStar, the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) for Family Care (including Partnership) distributed MetaStar's cover letter to their 2009-10 Annual Report and highlighted findings. They noted that in over 900 case reviews, no immediate health and safety issues were found. MCOs performed strongly in the area of care management, and excelled at ensuring member rights and access to grievance systems. Reviewers also found that MCOs were successful in creating plans that allow members to live in the least restrictive environments. Quality and timeliness of assessments was another strength.

The report recommends that DHS focus its improvement efforts in the following areas:

- Continue efforts to ensure that interdisciplinary teams (IDTs) explore, identify and document members' personal outcomes according to Family Care standards.
- Monitor IDTs use of the RAD to confirm that members are actively engaged in exploring cost-effective service options and are participating in all steps of the care planning process.
- Confirm that MCOs have designed and implemented quality monitoring strategies that evaluate the quality and appropriateness of care.

Current year reviews are underway, and reviewers are noticing significant improvements in the area of member outcome identification and supports to achieve them. MetaStar is also starting to conduct a few PEONIES interviews and refining that process. DHS staff will attend the next Council meeting to discuss what steps they are taking to follow up on MetaStar's recommendations.

DHS Updates

Fredi Bove provided several updates:

- Susan Crowley sends her thanks and well wishes as she leaves her post as Administrator of the Division of LTC. In other transition news, Dennis Smith has been appointed as DHS Secretary, Kitty Rhoades as Deputy Secretary, and Kevin Moore as Executive

Assistant to the Secretary. Brett Davis has been appointed Medicaid Director; there is not word yet on other Division Administrator appointments.

- All MCOs have signed contracts for 2011. New rates (see handout), it is believed, will contribute to the continued movement toward financial stability for MCOs.
- The transition to a central Medicaid Transportation Manager will be delayed until July 1, 2011. (See handout for more information.)
- The Joint Committee on Finance voted to approve a Family Care start in Langlade County on January 1, 2011 and in Lincoln County in April.
- The annual relocation report has been published and is on the DHS web site.
- As requested, additional information was provided about a change to the employment section of the functional screen. A question about whether the person being screened was interested in employment was removed because many people responded that they were not interested due to a misperception that having a job would result in loss of benefits. Secondly, there was concern that care managers would not explore the issue further in the full assessment/care planning process, leading to identification and support for a personal outcome of employment.

Donna McDowell said that a letter inviting organizations to host LTC listening sessions around the state had gone out. A number of organizations have already responded. She said organizations receiving the letter are encouraged to forward it to others who might be interested.

Council business

Approval of 11/2/10 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved, on a motion by Carol Eschner, seconded by Bob Kellerman.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Council procedures. Procedure guidelines for the Council were adopted unanimously, as proposed by the Chair. These are very little changed from previous years.

Executive Committee. On several unanimous votes, the following members (in addition to Chair Heather Bruemmer) were elected to the Executive Committee for 2011: Vice Chair: Lynn Breedlove; Secretary: Devon Christianson; Member at large: Carol Eschner; Member at large: Todd Romenesko

Future agenda items. The following items were suggested for future agendas:

- Discussion with the new DHS Secretary Dennis Smith
- Family Care fiscal updates
- Update on residential rate-setting methodology
- Update on the Quality Homecare Authority (Patti Becker)
- DHS response to 2009-10 External Quality Review Report

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.