

**Wisconsin Council on Long Term Care
Meeting of March 1, 2011**

Approved Minutes

Members present: Beth Anderson, Karen Avery, Judy Braun, Lynn Breedlove, Heather Bruemmer, Teri Buros, Devon Christianson, Dana Cyra, Carol Eschner, Caroline Feller, Bob Kellerman, John Sauer

Members absent: Mike Linton, Todd Romenesko, Chris Sarbacker, Stephanie Stein

Others present: Lorraine Barniskis, Fredi Bove, Sue Schroeder, Donna McDowell, Katy Geiger, Michael Blumenfeld, Monica Deignan, Carrie Molke, Kim Marheine, Tom Moore, Grant Cummings, Tim Stumm, Darla Gehl, Kim Rat, Tom Lawless, Dick Hinkel, Kitty Rhoades, Patti Becker, Alice Mirk

Chair Heather Bruemmer called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Members introduced themselves.

Conversation with Deputy Secretary Kitty Rhoades

Deputy Secretary Rhoades said that funds will be shifted from other sources to Medicaid in the 2011-13 budget. The shortfall is projected to be about \$1.2 billion in the next biennium, roughly the same as the federal stimulus funding received. Cuts in the budget will not be across the board. The effect of the federal maintenance of effort requirement is unknown; Wisconsin is asking for a waiver so that people below 133% of the federal poverty line will not have to lose eligibility entirely. A DHS series of listening sessions is planned to get input from a variety of stakeholders, especially consumers, about Medicaid changes. Senior Care will be maintained, but people will be required to enroll in Medicare Part D and may use Senior Care as a wraparound as needed. If the budget repair bill is not passed today, the state loses the opportunity to refinance bonds and Medicaid will start paying provider bills in IOUs. Family Care, including ADRCs, will continue, but everything's on the table for cuts. The goal is to triple the size of IRIS over the next two years, so that Family Care has competition. DHS will be asking ADRCs to help Senior Care enrollees to enroll in Medicare Part D. A peer-to-peer program is being planned to assist people in the transition from the school system to the adult service system. The future of the LTC Council is to be determined; a review is underway of all the many councils and committees advising the Department. She thanked Council members for contributing their time and assured the Council that its advice is listened to.

Family Care financial information

Tom Lawless provided financial information about Family Care and Partnership through the third quarter of 2010. With the slow-down in expansion, the overall financial picture stabilizing. Northern Bridges and Community Health Partnership are both past the stage of major expansion, but are still struggling financially. Assistance with operational issues will be provided by DHS. Beth Anderson said that she thought that, given the size of the program (approaching \$1 billion) and the recent rapid expansion, the numbers looked good; however the numbers do not indicate the experience of individual providers in particular communities.

Dick Hinkel from OCI agreed that the overall picture is positive, but said that OCI worries about a few MCOs. Six-month permits were issued to four MCOs, and their performance will be reviewed monthly for solvency protection levels.

John Sauer asked about APS findings suggesting that MCOs struggled more financially proportionally to the number of people with disabilities they served. Tom Lawless said that DHS will be working on capitation rate adjustments related to this issue. John also requested more transparency regarding any specific performance expectations and “corrective action” plans imposed on specific MCOs.

Medicaid transportation issues

Tom Lawless said that Medicaid “common carrier” transportation services (non-emergency medical transportation) will be added to the Family Care benefit effective July 1, 2011. The Family Care benefit until now has included only “social” transportation services from the HCB waiver; members used their MA cards for the common carrier benefit. MCOs must prepare a plan to provide the new services. A Transportation Broker has been engaged to manage MA card services for non-Family Care members. Council members requested more discussion of these changes at the next meeting, especially on how they would affect consumer access.

Proportion of target groups in Family Care

Tom Lawless provided a handout showing Medicaid managed care enrollments by program, by region, and by target group. He cautioned that the methodology behind these numbers is different from that used in some other DHS report and urged that the cover note on methodology be read carefully. Concerns were raised about the apparently low proportion of frail elders being served; more analysis and explanations were requested for a future meeting.

Comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority

Patti Becker and Fredi Bove walked through a handout describing the functions and current status of the Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority. The currently pending budget repair bill contains language repealing the Authority and prohibiting DHS from contracting with it. Discussions are underway for how to make this transition, if necessary, with the least possible disruption for consumers and workers.

DHS response to MetaStar (EQRO) annual report findings and recommendations

Monica Deignan summarized the DHS procedures related to EQRO annual reviews of Family Care. DHS staff meets with MetaStar staff before the review, to help steer the review toward issues of particular interest in a given year. During the review, there is collaboration between DHS and MetaStar staff. After the review, DHS looks at findings to see whether there is anything needing an immediate response. DHS reviews findings to determine whether there is a pattern indicating underlying causes for problems or systemic issues needing attention. A comprehensive and coordinated plan is developed for, and usually by, each MCO to address issues raised by the review.

Mental health and substance abuse issues in Family Care

Alice Mirk provided a handout summarizing DHS visits to MCOs in 2010 to assess challenges in serving Family Care members with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Big gaps in the availability of mental health services were identified, especially in specific specialties (e.g., expertise in serving people with mental illness and cognitive disabilities such as Alzheimer’s disease or developmental disabilities). Even with tele-consulting, MCOs are having great difficulty finding the expertise needed to serve their members. DHS has hired Colleen Rinken, who has both mental health and substance abuse expertise; she is visiting each MCO and helping them to develop mental health and substance abuse best practice plans. DHS has also been

working with all MCOs and with the State Mental Health Institutes to reduce admissions and lengths of stay. This has been very successful: between April and November of 2010, inpatient stays were reduced from an average of three weeks to an average of three days.

DHS Updates

Fredi Bove provided several updates:

- The APS financial evaluation of Family Care fiscal issues has been completed and is on the DHS web site at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/ProgramOps/fiscal/APSFCEFinancialEvalFinalDec2010.pdf>
- DHS has just issued an RFP for a Family Care IT infrastructure system. Responses are due by April 15.
- This is Fredi's last week with DHS. She is moving to the Department of Children and Families to become the Administrator of the Division of Safety and Permanence. She thanked Council members for their service and dedication and noted that their input has been valued. Beth Wroblewski has been appointed acting DLTC deputy administrator.

Council business

Approval of 1/4/11 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved, on a motion by Beth Anderson, seconded by Dana Cyra.

Announcements:

- Heather Bruemmer said that she had gotten a telephone call from Senator Kohl's office to thank the Council for its letter of support and recommendations regarding the re-authorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Bob Kellerman drew attention to two drafter's notes questioning the constitutionality of Medicaid-related provisions of the pending budget repair bill.
- Lorraine Barniskis is retiring "for real" and will no longer be under contract to staff the Council. She thanked everyone for all that she has learned from them and said that she will miss the meetings and the members.

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

- Invite Secretary Smith to meet with the Council
- Budget updates
- Update on the APS financial audit report and DHS workplan in response
- More information and discussion on changes in Medicaid transportation services, especially on how the changes will affect Family Care members
- More information on plans to triple the size of IRIS
- Cost comparisons between Family Care and IRIS
- Analysis and explanations for apparently low proportion of frail elders being served in Medicaid managed care programs.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.