

**Advisory Commission on LTC Supports and Services
Public Education and Consumer Participation WorkGroup
Office of Services to the Aging Large Conference Room
The Chandler Plaza Building, 300 E. Michigan Avenue, 3rd Floor; Lansing, MI
February 2, 2009 ~ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Agenda Item #1: Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda-Any Additional Items?

Participants: Sharon Gire, Chair, Mary Ablan, Nora Barkey, Carol Dye, Andy Farmer, Cyndy Viars, Katheryn Etheridge, Cyndy's student graduate intern with Facility Advocates of Kent Co., and Toni Wilson, with Jane Church, Co-Chair, Tandy Bidinger, Terry Eldred, Jenny Jarvis, Helen Love and John Payne joining in via conference call.

Agenda Item #2: Review Outstanding Action Items

Action Item 1: Reach out to multicultural groups for individuals to participate in workgroup activities.

Cyndy contacted the African American Health Care Institute in Grand Rapids, but they had no one to offer. She stated she has a long term care consumer, an African American male who she can bring. She also has other ideas for consumers, but she'll discuss further with Jane. Mary Ablan also has an older consumer who is local and she she'll call her and ask about her interest in participating with this WorkGroup.

Action Item #2: Chair/Co-Chair to meet with leadership of PCP workgroup to discuss role in regards to CE curriculum and requirements.

Helen said the Commission's Person Centered Planning WorkGroup is scheduled to reconvene on Feb. 12th. They have a draft logic model that includes working with the commission around curriculum, training and public education. After that meeting, it might be a better time to address this workgroup on collaboration. Jane stated that this would be the PCP WorkGroup's primary role and our workgroup would be more of a support role in helping the consumers and the public to understand it.

Action Item #3: Work with website developers on "consumer rights/issues and resources" bucket.

discussing issues and needs to figure out vetting and disclaimer strategies for the forthcoming Catalogue content sources

This will happen after Agenda Item #4 discussion happens.

Action Item: Sharon asked that Agenda Item # 5 be moved ahead to determine the next course of action.

Agenda Item #5: Commission on LTC Supports and Services Retreat Update

Andy gave an overview of the two-day retreat. Two key tools were adopted; one regarding personnel and the other planning the work, related to project action teams lead by staff from the office of LTCSS, and assignments to each of the task force recommendations.

The WorkGroup's recommendation memo was presented at the January 28, 2009 LTCSS Advisory Commission post-retreat business session. The recommendations were fully adopted by the Commission in that session. Commission action involved referring the memo to newly forming OLTCSS project action teams for incorporation and implementation in new logic model tools for SPE and Public Education Task Force recommendations. Mary and Toni requested they be added to the SPE action project team.

The Commission also adopted an advocacy letter that will be finalized and mailed to the entire Legislature in the next week. The first of a series of letters, beginning with general messages to more specific positions about the need to adequately fund the array and the unfinished work for the Legislature to address revenue needs of the state and the structural budget deficits in particular. Commission members agreed to begin working with the Legislature related to these letters.

Action Item: Nora will send the final recommendation memo, which was finalized by Andy, Helen, Toni and Terry, to Jane.

Agenda Item #3: Facilitate Group Through Direct Action Organizing Exercise to Identify and Prioritize Work Plan Activities

Cyndy stated that at the retreat last week, they discussed a logic model and thought better to work on that first. Andy stated that the direct action organizing model is still very relevant. Cyndy stated she would present on it the March meeting if time allowed, if not, then at the April meeting.

Action Item: Add Facilitate Group Through Direct Action Organizing Exercise to Identify and Prioritize Work Plan Activities to the April 6th agenda.

Action Item: Cyndy and Mary will help Jane facilitate the process for the logic model.

Action Item: Cyndy will send the direct action organizing strategic plan chart to help WorkGroup members better understand.

Agenda Item #4: Review and Prioritize Draft Catalogue of Content, Picklists and Links on Consumer Rights, Issues and Resources for LTCC Website

Jane encouraged the workgroup to explore the website at www.MILongTermCare.org. This website has information about long term care issues. For example, there is a caregiving link that takes you to caregiver websites, including Caregiver Corner in

OSA's website, National Caregiver Alliance in California, Caregiver.org, etc. There are also links to help those needing long term care and their caregivers understand what the different entity's roles are in the delivery of long term care services.

One suggestion was to add a link to www.Common.org, which is a web service that allows users to barter voluntary services, for example exchanging gardening services for sink repair, where service and no money are exchanged.

Jane's recommendation for top three priorities was Residents Rights, Recourses and Shopping for LTC Facilities; Consumer Rights, Recourses and Shopping for Home & Community Based Services; and Preserving Self-Determination, Decision Making & Setting Boundaries and Legal Protections for Autonomy and Control.

Cyndy's recommendation for top three priorities were Consumer Rights, Recourses and Shopping for Home & Community Based Services; Following the Money: Choices versus Payment Programs, Alternatives and Gaps in Financing Options with the Various HCBS and Facility Settings; and Whose Life Is It: Preserving Self-Determination, Decision Making & Setting Boundaries and Legal Protections for Autonomy and Control.

Jane suggested that once priorities are identified, it should be built up in a spreadsheet format so users can identify where they currently find this information. There is a need for further discussion on a disclaimer strategy and vetting process for the forthcoming catalogue content sources.

Action Item: Jane asked the WorkGroup to prioritize the eight subject areas, and then within each of those areas, there are sub-categories that should also be prioritized and also input on anything else you feel would add value to the LTCC Website and send it back to Jane Church at ChurchJa@michigan.gov within 2 weeks, by February 16th.

Action Item: Carol will send the list to the WorkGroup.

Agenda Item #6: Discuss Ideas That Resulted From 11/24 Commission Meeting

Priority should be placed on creating one-page informational bulletins for the new Legislators to help educate them on the issues that are important to the Commission. This would need to be vetted through the DCH Public Information Officer.

Jane's vision of the strategy to help the budget decision makers understand should include the value of what the SPE's are doing; the importance of making sure people have all the necessary information; and helping them to plan. When the Legislature is reviewing the budget, it is going to be important for them to understand the issues and what the impact of funding will be related to the full array of services so consumers can reach their maximum potential and allow them the ability to make choices that will result in savings for the state, if they would loosen up on home and community based funding and allow access to the services the consumers need. The concepts need to be written and clarified in a way that makes sense to them because they see it as a nursing home

or home and community based issue; they are not looking at as an economic issue, like the jobs it will create in the community, or how it will let families continue to provide support, which results in lower costs to the Medicaid system.

It was suggested that interested Legislators be invited to the WorkGroup meetings.

Jane will work with Bob Orme to develop stats from data they have from Detroit related to individuals who were on Waiver waiting lists. This data contains a large number of individuals who, because they couldn't get access to the Waiver, ended up going into nursing homes. This information will allow them to quantify what it costs serving them in nursing homes, compared to what it would have cost had they been given a Waiver slot.

Agenda Item #7: Discuss Future Meeting Location

Sharon advised the group of her, as well as her assistant Carol, resignation from this WorkGroup, as a result of the current economic issues and other pressing matters, which have not allowed her to devote as much time and attention to the WorkGroup as she would have liked to. Sharon offered the use of the OSA Conference room for future meetings.

Action Item: Carol will reserve the Large OSA Conference room for 2009 meetings.

Agenda Item #8: Meeting Evaluation, Adjourn

Action Item: Nora will send Jane all the handouts from the strategic planning meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2009, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in the OSA Large Conference room located at 300 E. Michigan Avenue, 3rd Floor; Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.