

**MICHIGAN LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORTS & SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING**

Minutes of Monday, May 19, 2008  
Capitol View Building, Lansing

**I. Organizing Ourselves**

**A. Roll Call**

Members Present:

Robert Allison	William Mania
Rae Bower	Yolanda McKinney
RoAnne Chaney-Secretary	Marsha Moers (by phone)
Christine Chesny	Denise Rabidoux
Linda Ewing	Jon Reardon
Andrew Farmer-Chairperson	Hollis Turnham-Vice Chairperson
Connie Fuller	Reverend Charles Williams II (by phone)
William Gutos	Toni Wilson
Dohn Hoyle	

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Mary Ablan, Area Agencies on Aging Assoc. of Michigan  
Barbara Anders for DHS Director Ahmed  
Peggy Brey for DCH Director Olszewski and Office of LTC Supports & Services  
Sarah Slocum, State LTC Ombudsman  
Absent: OSA and DLEG

Office of Long-Term Care Supports & Services Staff Present:

Nora Barkey  
Jane Church  
Gloria Lanum

**B. Review & Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2008**

Motion by Commissioner Turnham, seconded by Commissioner Reardon, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**C. Review & Approval of May Agenda**

Chairperson Farmer proposed consideration of a motion to move agenda item IV.A. before Public Comment under Part II. Motion by Commissioner Rabidoux, seconded by Commissioner Chaney, to accept the agenda as adjusted. Motion passed by voice vote.

## D. Chair's Report

Chairperson Farmer reported that the majority of energy among key Commissioners has been finalizing the budget advocacy letter to the state appropriations committee. This item will be discussed further on the agenda.

## II. What's Happening

### A. Workforce Development Workgroup Action Items

Commissioner Turnham discussed two recommendations made by the Workforce Development Workgroup (WFDW) for the Commission's consideration. The first recommendation concerns reforming Michigan's nursing facility CNA curricula standards. Twenty organizations now formally agree that Michigan should design an educational and administrative process that meets our current needs.

Motion by Commissioner Rabidoux, seconded by Commissioner Chaney, to accept the WFDW's recommendation to begin developing legislative concepts to define the parameters of both the curriculum for CNA training and registration process that is responsive to the state's long-term care needs. Motion adopted by voice vote.

The second recommendation involves the Commission's participation in the Task Force on Nursing Education to review nursing educational requirements and the student to faculty ratios, and the Task Force on Nursing Practice to review nursing delegation and supervision, if created by Michigan Department of Community Health.

Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Allison, to accept the WFDW's recommendation to send a letter to Director Olszewski commending the nursing regulation task force for considering long-term care needs and specifically request that representatives from the Commission be appointed to serve on both task forces if they are constituted. Commissioner Chaney requested to add to the motion that those who participate as representatives of the Commission shall report back to the full Commission. Motion adopted by voice vote.

### B. Commission FY '09 DCH-LTC Appropriations Advocacy Consensus Status Briefing & Discussion [handout by Vice Chair Commissioner Turnham]

CONSENSUS DEFINED, Excerpted from *True Consensus, False Consensus* by Brea Briggs, Published in the Journal of Cooperative Living, Winter, 2001.

### C. Discussion & Action Regarding DCH-LTC Appropriations Advocacy

Chairperson Farmer provided a brief overview of the draft appropriations advocacy letter outlining requests for the 2008-2009 Medicaid budget for the Commission's consideration to support, block, or stand aside according to the consensus model the Commission adopted in March 2007.

Commissioner Reardon thanked Commissioners Turnham and Chesny for their work and stated that he strongly believes that the letter negatively affects the most vulnerable and elderly in nursing homes for the benefit of other array of services. The letter recognizes nursing home provider tax money and that the money should remain in long term care in the array of Medicaid services. If the provider is paying the tax and the money is not going to be taken by the state, it should remain with the provider. Commissioner Reardon is not asking for any language changes and would not block it, but he is unable to support it.

Commissioner Rabidoux commented that she also has concerns about the letter. In concept, she supports funding the full array but is concerned that those who pay the provider tax should benefit, especially when being faced with issues of inadequate reimbursement. Her stance remains that the entire array of services must be appropriately funded. Commissioner Rabidoux opted to stand aside as well.

Ms. Slocum pointed out that part of the additional funds generated by the whole bed tax mechanism goes into the general fund. The aim is to not have as much of that diverted from long term care and transferred to the general fund for other state government purposes, but to have more of it stay in the realm of long term care to be flexible based on demand. Ms. Slocum added that she did not believe that there was ever a proposal to reduce what facilities receive from their portion of the provider tax.

Chairperson Farmer asked Commissioners if they wish to continue discussion or return back to the meeting agenda schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Chesny, seconded by Commissioner Reardon, to accept Chairperson Farmer's inquiry to keep the Public Comment at 11:00 as scheduled, and then reconvene discussion on the appropriations advocacy letter. Motion adopted by voice vote.

#### D. Public Comment

Laura Tuer, a caregiver who works for Great Northern Home Care which part of Whispering Pines in Escanaba, provided testimony regarding concerns of inadequate mileage reimbursement for home care providers as gas prices rise.

Michelle Munson-McCorry, from Complete Compassionate Care in East Lansing, provided testimony on gas prices rising along with the cost of business and cost of living and that the reimbursement rate to providers also needs to be increased.

Chairperson Farmer asked Commissioners to respond to the approach of providing a specific message about mileage reimbursement versus language of the DCH appropriations letter regarding adequate funding for the array of services. Commissioner Chaney suggested developing a second letter using mileage reimbursement as an example of inadequate funding that is creating a crisis for home care workers.

Motion by Commissioner Mania, seconded by Commissioner Turnham, to propose that the state pass a bill to support health care workers in meeting their quotas and with the intricacies of daily business by specifically recommending that the MI Choice Program reimburse direct care workers for the mileage between client's homes.

Chairperson Farmer proposed to adjust the motion to develop as a separate communication to address a very specific urgency issue about gas mileage reimbursement and other cost increases that affect the entire array of services after the supplemental appropriations letter. Commissioner Chaney added that the letter also be sent to the Department. The original introducers, Commissioner Mania and Commissioner Turnham agreed to the adjusted motion. Motion adopted by voice vote.

Motion by Commissioner Chesny, seconded by Commissioner Bower, to have the Commission approve the draft appropriations advocacy letter to the House Appropriations Committee outlining requests for the 2008-2009 Medicaid budget. Motion adopted by voice vote with Commissioners Reardon and Rabidoux choosing to stand aside.

### **III. What Else is Happening**

#### **A. Spring 2008 Single Point Entry “Long-Term Care Connections” Report – OLTCCSS & Demonstration Partners**

Nora Barkey from the Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services, Michigan Department of Community Health and representatives from two of the Long-Term Care Connections demonstrations (Southwest MI and West MI) updated the Commission on implementation and evaluation activities.

#### **B. OLTCCSS Update – Director Brey & Staff**

Director Brey asked Commissioners to share any feedback that might assist the Office in terms of continuous quality improvement, particularly the SPEs.

Feedback and comments should be directed to [BreyP@michigan.gov](mailto:BreyP@michigan.gov).

Ms. Brey reported that the Office is looking at the LTC task force recommendations. A recent presentation made to Commissioner Chesny’s group indicated that 7 of the 9 recommendations have been touched by the grants in the Office. There will be a more concerted effort to parallel with what’s going on with the Commission workgroups and a closer working relationship with Office.

Office staff updates:

- Michael Daeschlein now works for the Medical Services Administration within MDCH, and will provide oversight to the MI Choice Waiver Program.
- Interviews were completed for the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Section manager position.
- Erin Atchue hired as the SPE/LTCC project assistant.
- Robin Mossberger hired as the evaluation and data analyst for DRA/MFP.
- The SPE/LTCC project specialist position has been approved for hiring.

Ms. Brey presented a brief project overview on the Detroit AAA – Nursing Facility Quality Improvement Project to review issues surrounding high regulatory deficiency rates, decreasing revenue, and a trend of nursing facility closures. Commissioner Turnham shared that this

project is funded at the rate of \$1.7M over two years. It's the largest project ever funded by the civil monetary penalty funds that are assessed against nursing homes. The Office will coordinate with DAAA and Plante & Moran to present a more detailed report of the project at the July Commission meeting.

#### **IV. Next Steps & Assignments**

- A. Discussion & Action Regarding DCH-LTC Appropriations Advocacy – Reported under II.A.
- B. Discussion & Action regarding Workforce Development Action Item – Reported under II.C.
- C. Discussion & Action Regarding Public Comment

Commissioner Chesny suggested that, instead of a letter, testimony be provided to the legislature. The next opportunity to testify is next year. Commissioner Ewing suggested one-on-one meetings with members of the appropriations committee. Ms. Slocum proposed that the practical way to deal with an emergency type situation happens at the Department level via supplemental appropriations request. Commissioner Turnham suggested the Commission consider a meeting with the Department to describe the gasoline and transportation emergent issues and the approaching crisis. Ms. Slocum suggested the motion specifically include MI Choice and Home Help.

Chairperson Farmer will draft a letter to the Department about the gas mileage reimbursement as well as questioning the lack of any provisions for home help workers. Motion adopted by voice vote.

- D. Discussion & Action Regarding OLTCCS Activities & SPE Demonstrations

Chairperson Farmer asked the Commission to begin thinking about what type of movement is needed to ensure statewide expansion of the SPE demonstration projects. The due date for the final SPE report to legislature is December 2008. The content for the report is dependent on the evaluation. The sunset date for the SPEs included in the FY 08 boilerplate is September 30, 2009.

- E. Workgroups Status [Chairs]

PCP Workgroup. Commissioner Hoyle indicated that there has been no recent activity related to the guardianship legislation and will continue to monitor this issue closely. Commissioner Rabidoux reported that the subgroup working on evaluating the full implementation of person centered planning in the nursing home setting has met. There are 5 skilled nursing facilities participating on the workgroup and the participating nursing homes are at different stages of "culture change". There may be some aspects of the "supports counselor" role that can be mirrored in the long-term setting especially during the initial planning conferences where the resident and family are present. The next PCP Workgroup meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2008.

Public Education & Consumer Participation Workgroup. Leadership changes have occurred. Chairperson Farmer reported that a meeting is expected to be held during the month of June.

Workforce Development Workgroup. Commissioner Turnham reported the next full meeting is July 23, 2008. The latest PHI publication on workforce projections indicated that by the year 2016 there will be more direct care workers occupations than teachers K-12 across the country. DLEG will announce their projections in July and PHI plans to turn that National document into a Michigan document.

Chronic Care Management Workgroup. Commissioner Chaney announced the next meeting is June 19, 2008. The workgroup is currently sharpening the focus of the top three priorities.

Finance Workgroup. Commissioner Chesny indicated the next meeting is June 16, 2008.

Quality Management Workgroup. Ms. Slocum announced the first meeting will be held June 5, 2008 from 1:00-4:00, at the Office of Services to the Aging Office located at 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing.

#### F. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next meeting of the Michigan Long-Term Care Supports & Services Advisory Commission meeting is July 28, 2008, from 10:00-4:00 p.m., in Grand Rapids. Commissioner Rabidoux is working to find a meeting place.

Chairperson Farmer thanked Commissioner Reardon for sponsoring lunch.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.