

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)

June 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Russ Armstrong, Kathryn Cauble, Richard Crocker, Rep. Susan Emerson, Chuck Engborg, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Sherri Harden, Herb Johnson, Bob Ritchie, Joan Schulze

Excused: Sheila King, Candace Cole-McCrea

Guests: Michael Cauble, Bonnie Roberts, Tracey Tarr, BEAS

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Rich Crocker. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve May 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion was approved.

Review of Funding Rates for Service Providers – Rich Crocker:

The request to have the funding rates is coming from the furor from the legislature and the senate regarding the continued freezing of home health rates and there was a press conference where people spoke to the issue of rates. The committee wanted to see the rates that have existed in home and community services in the last ten years to see what the providers are complaining about.

Rich emailed the Director Diane Langley, Commissioner Nick Toumpas asking for the rate history for over the last ten years for the Older Americans Act funding Title XX and state funding because some of the services don't necessarily get into Medicaid funding. Bureau of Elderly Adult Services does not have the rates at the time of the meeting.

State Budget Update – Rich Crocker:

The House had eliminated funding for ServiceLink and cut 50% for non-Medicaid home and community based services. There was a lot of feedback from the public to the House, and the funding for Servicelink and Meals on Wheels was put back into the budget. The senate will be passing there budget on June 4, if the numbers are different between the House and the Senate there will be a committee of conference, they will jointly figure out what the finale budget will be, then the budget will be moved on to the Governor for approval. The senate budget has cuts for small businesses which are phased in, they don't affect much in this biennium but, 4 or 5 years out they approach around \$80 million dollars in cuts. They did not reapprove the senate Medicaid expansion NH Health Protection Plan, which added about 40,000 people with 90% funding from the federal government. 34 million dollars was approved to go back in to the rainy day fund, some money went back into substance abuse services.

HB-2 – Department of Health and Human Services Suspension of Home Health rate setting rule is,

Not with standing any provision of law or rule to the contrary HeW550 theory relative to home health services rate setting shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2017. Payments for home health services shall be limited to appropriations for home health services shall as may be restricted or reduced by action of the fiscal committee of the general court by legislative action.

Reimbursement to the foster grand parenting program through the senior volunteer program established in RSA: 161F are heard by suspended this biennium ended in June 30, 2017.

Congregate Housing Services shall be suspended until June 30, 2017. Notwithstanding any provisions previously. The rate of reimbursement for Medicaid eligible services and programs for Medicaid eligible child shall be agreed upon by the provider and managed care organization.

Legislation – Chuck:

HB 151 – Establishing a committee to study end of life decision, bill has been adopted by both houses.

HB 328 – Relative to delivery of absentee ballots, both house has passed and the senate has passed with amendment.

HB 330 – Establishing an oversight commission for medical cost transparency, house passed adopted with an amendment.

HB 411 – Prohibiting the payment of subminimum wages to persons with disabilities, passed and adopted by both houses.

HB 484 – Relative to medication administration by licensed nursing assistants and relative to exemptions from regulation for certain nursing care and attendant services, house passed adopted with amendment.

HB 628 – Relative to indemnification of health care facilities under certain circumstances, passed and adopted by the house, and referred by the senate.

SB 7 – Adding duties to the joint health care reform oversight committee, passed and adopted by the senate with an amendment, retained in committee in the house.

SB 8 - Relative to appropriations for nursing homes, non-concurred request conference in the senate, the house passed with an amendment.

SB 49 - Relative to clinical eligibility determination for long term care, senate status has concurred, house passed adopted with amendment.

SB 56 – Establishing a commission to study oversight, regulation, and reporting of patient safety and infectious disease prevention and control issues in a health care setting, senate concurred, house adopted with amendment.

SB 84 – Relative to the definition of telemedicine, non-concurred in the senate, house passed with an amendment.

SB 100 – Relative to home heating fuel deliveries ion the winter, referred.

SB 146 – Relative to accessory dwellings units, senate passed with amendment, house retained in committee.

SB 187 – Allowing a patient to designate a care giver upon entry to a medical facility, it is now charter law.

SB 209 – Adoption of the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act, senate passed with an amendment, house passed and adopted.

State Plane on Aging – Tracy Tarr:

First draft will out soon for Chuck and Joan to look over and to give some feedback back to Tracy. SCOA recommend that the intersection of Older American Act and the Title XX. The intersection of Medicaid funded services and the Older Americans Act be more defined and maybe the SPOA can be the place to do it.

Medicaid Managed Care Update – Rich Crocker:

The federal government has come out with new rules for Medicaid Manage Care. The original rules are from the late 1990's and represent a set of rules that are very simplistic view of managed care. In all of the documentation it all had to do with the acute care side and not to the long term care side. The move to managed long term care is relatively new in the last three years. So they have begun to address this in the new draft proposed rule which eventually the state will have to comply.

Endowment for Health Initiative – Russ Armstrong:

Tri-state collaborative is coming together to address some concerns with the increase in the age of the population in the state. The Endowment is forming a tri-state committee called Collective Impact; this will bring together people from funding agencies, seniors, privet and public foundations, and providers. The Tri-State Learning Collaborative ran by Jess Marrow area agency manager in Maine, this is ran under a grant from the Endowment, and as of right now they are putting together there advisory council and the structure of operation of the collaborative. Russ met with the group to name the people for the advisory council 2 weeks before. The operational side of the council is still in the early stages. The Endowment is funding a small grant to the Center for Public Policy Study to look at the economic impact on aging.

Oral Health – Bob Ritchie:

They will be in recess in July, and will resume in September and hopefully at that point they will have heard all the testimony that is needed. The overall scope of things is do we put a dental hygienists in certain offices to further serve the youth and older population and where in NH is that not being well served. A letter of commendation will be written up and sent into the legislation process, hopefully happen in September early October.

BEAS has had a relationship with the public with the Oral Health program for the last few years, and they are total on board with children and older adults. BEAS has taken a \$23,309 dollars of their Title 3-D funding and uses this money for the oral health treatment for older adult's state wide. Oral Health program received some funding to do research on a program called Open Mouth survey on older adults in senior centers around the state and individuals are identified by early for imminent need of care and then those individuals are referred to one of BEAS contracted dental practices. In the last 2 years BEAS has 5 practices participating and sharing the \$23,309 a year.

Commission to Study Mental Health/RSA 135-C: 63-b – Rep. Susan Emerson:

Attorney General and Chief Goldstein who is the past president of the police association spoke about people with mental health issues being pulled over and being issued ticketed for motor vehicle violations and how difficult it is.

Other Cats and Dogs:

Older Americans Act Re-Authorization – Rich Crocker:

There have been a few changes; the senate is looking at enhancing the role of the Long Term Care Ombudsman through the Older Americans Act. Conflict Free Case Management is when an agency provides services and case management, the federal government is now pushing for certain kinds of firewall in order for the person centered planning is separate from services provisions and not to get the two entangled.

White House Conference on Aging – Rich Crocker:

They have been having regional meetings; last one was in Boston on May 28. The conference will be in Washington in July, where regional representatives will go and they have produced four policy briefs and they are on Healthy Aging, Long Term Services and Supports, Elder Justice and, Retirement Security.

What's Happening in your Region?

Joan Schulze – It was reported to Joan by an agency that agencies in Nashua have been suggesting/encouraging to seniors to commit suicide. At the wrap around Joan questioned all the agencies that were there. Joan is hopeful that she has fixed the situation. Joan spoke with Roger Housdone who is the city planner for Nashua and spoke about the city's master plan and if there walkways included in them, and his plan does include walkways and they have a strong policy to provide senior housing. Nashua senior center has a new director, her name is Margo Bell.

Mark Frank – At the North County Veterans Committee Meeting and at every meeting they have a vet that does vet to vet and goes into prisons to talk to other vets, this person is also on the Justice Involved Veterans committee and what JIV is trying to do is create up in COOS county is a Veterans court like there is already in Nashua.

A loose statement was heard by Mark that “Too many of these old people are getting, too many tax advantages”. Mark approached the person who said this, and said they were speaking to a World War 2 disabled veteran about this because the person who approached the veteran has a 400 hundred dollar increase in their tax bill and it was inferred that it was the state revenue who had made the statement. Mark has figured out why this person has an increase in tax and will be sitting with gentleman to help understand the increase, and Mark will be sitting and talk with the person who made the statement and get a better understanding as to why the statement was made.

Chuck Enborg – North for Meals? Was at the Grafton County senior center to help raise money for the senior centers in their area \$40,000 was raised. Senator Forrester was in attendance she is support of seniors, senior issues, meals on wheels congregate meals she also vowed that she would do the best she could to get the services reinstated back in to the budget.

Tracy Tarr - There is a permanently established subcommittee in the House, called Health and Human services and Elderly Affairs Committee, this is to study Alzheimer's and Dementia. Tracey was appointed by the Commissioner to be on this committee. At their first meeting the Bureau of Elderly and Adult services has always had a strong relationship with the Alzheimer Association and it has been through different structures in a number of years but, it now has merged with New Hampshire, Massachusetts chapter. They piloted some training with police departments on a 2 hour training module for law enforcement and first responders on how to assess the situation that they are coming into if the person has dementia or Alzheimer's. This training module will now be at the Police and Standards Academy.

The program called Safe Return has been updated and changed to Silver Alert; this is to help people with dementia find their way back to their home. This will be training for law enforcement as well.

SCOA membership – Candace and Larry are up for reappointment and Rich will check with the Governor's office as to where their membership stands.

The committee has voted to take the summer off from meeting and will return in September.

Bonnie Roberts introduced herself and she owns a Home Care for seniors, her agency is in the CFI program and provides Medicaid. Bonnie is also a veteran with 22 years in the navy, 13 years in active duty with 9 years in the reserves, she was also mobilized after 911. She is the chairman for the Town of Londonderry Elderly Affairs committee, and serves on Elder Wrap in Derry, Parkland Medical Centers Re-Admission, Reduction Community taskforce and Ethics committee.

Next meeting is September 14, 2015 from 10:00-12:30.