



**Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force
Legislation & Regulations Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Detroit Area Agency on Aging
1333 Brewery Park Boulevard
Hildred Drew Dale Conference Center
Detroit, MI 48207-4544

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Foster, Co-Chair
Kay Andrejak
Wanda Bailey Jenkins
Bernice Morrison
Dorothy Stone Montgomery
Ronald Hewitt
Mildred Madison
Kendra Howard
Tom Rau
Melissa Samuel
Olivia Boykins
David Stobb

STAFF

Paul Bridgewater, President and CEO
Gloria Hicks Long
Faiz Esshaki
Anne Holmes Davis

GUESTS

Brenda Sowash, Plante & Moran, LLC
Laurie Solotora, Plante & Moran, LLC
Diane Glenn, Detroit Non-Profit Housing

RECORDER

Leah Phippen

CALL TO ORDER

Eric Foster called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Marilyn Lawson
Bob Allison
Patricia Anderson
Helen Hicks Kozlowski
Martha Little

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Foster asked everyone to state his or her name for the record.

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT

Mildred Madison made a motion to revise the mission statement to read:

“To develop policy recommendations that modernize and improve the quality of resources for long term consumers in order to improve their ability to age in place in a quality setting...” All committee Members were in agreement. **Motion was carried.**

REVIEW/ FINALIZE WORK PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Gloria Hicks Long asked members to review the deliverables and noted that upon approval the mission and Scope of Work will be posted on the LTC System Change Task Force website.

Eric Foster explained the three phases of the L&R work plan. He noted that Lansing works on a two-year clock from January 1, 2009 through December 1, 2010. During phase one, from now until December, committee meetings will be held once a month. During phase two, from December until February, bi-weekly meetings will commence. During phase three, from March until September, subcommittee meetings can be either bi-weekly or monthly.

Liv Boykins, Assistant to John Conyers, proposed that phase two in part be carried out simultaneously with phase one, by sending an informal letter so that Congressional officials will be familiar with the purpose and plan of the committee before providing them with a formal presentation. Mildred Madison agreed that it is better to open the lines of communication and to reconnect once we have all of the data needed to carry out a presentation.

Members agreed that contacts would be listed and informally called within one week to share information about the task force and its purpose. Informal letters will follow within one month of verbal information shared.

Eric Foster stated that if upon no further questions or suggestions, the **work plan flow is passed.**

UPDATE FROM PLANTE & MORAN ON REVIEW OF LAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION

Jerry Gumbleton sent representation from Plante & Moran to present the update, Laurie Solotora and Brenda Sowash. The committee touched on subjects about funding for nursing facilities, the turn around on state funding for repairs such as new windows or roofing vs. adding a new wing or floor vs. adding qualified staff. The turn around for reimbursement is about 2 years for repairs and much quicker for extension to property; while, reimbursement for adding new qualified staff is harder to get in any reasonable amount of time. Mr. Bridgewater asked if there was anything that could modify that issue. Eric Foster responded that the Legislation & Regulations along with Business & Economics would probe more into that topic.

The committee discussed the issue of unnecessary nursing home closures, noting that although there are various reasons for the closures the state does not offer a chance for any recovery and is too quick to shut them down. They are currently preparing to close down a 185-bed facility with air conditioning, even though another nursing home owner expressed interest in it. They now have to move all of the residents, not taking into consideration that the familiarity of the staff may indeed have an effect on the senior citizens' health.

As Mr. Bridgewater stated, the state can only handle so much with regards to system change. Considering the minimal budget, state officials prioritize. Our timing and presentation of issues vs. solutions for long term care must be influential enough for legislators to consider the issue as a priority in the state of Michigan.

UPDATE ON THE BILLS MENTIONED BY NURSING HOME OWNER

Mr. Foster provided a handout and asked L&R members to review bills listed on the materials entitled: UCG Current LTC Industry Legislative Activity. It was noted that members could also view the bills online at www.michiganlegislature.com. These bills will be reviewed at our next meeting.

UPDATE FROM UCG ON OTHER AAA'S AND URBAN POPULATIONS

There should be information available at the next meeting to look at other AAA's and how this issue is impacting them.

DISCUSS HOW SUBCOMMITTEE WISHES TO IMPLEMENT LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TRAINING

A suggestion was made to schedule a training session on the Legislative Process. The members agreed that this was a good idea. Eric Foster plans to execute this plan by the later half of November. He will send out a proposed date to work into everyone's calendar. Mr. Foster said that we would involve other individuals as needed. Mr. Stobb requested permission to include his administration. Permission was granted.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Mr. Foster noted that Legislation & Regulations meeting locations might vary. Some options include: Plante & Moran Conference Center, Urban Consulting Group Facilities, NexCare Health Conference Rooms, etc.

Ms. Long reminded members that all future meeting dates and locations would need to be agreed upon as soon as possible so that they may be posted on the website; however, November and December dates were most important.

L&R members agreed upon Monday, November 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting locations for both November and December will be DAAA – Hildred Drew Dale Conference Center. Plante & Moran office site in Southfield was suggested, but was inconvenient for some members.

BEST METHOD OF NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS (EMAIL VS. MAIL)

Members agreed that the best method of notification was both email and mail.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria Hicks Long

GHL/lp

Moving Towards Enhancing the Quality of Care