

**Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force
Leadership & Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Friday, September 26, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – Downtown
351 Gratiot Avenue
Salon C & D
Detroit, MI 48226

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anita Caref
Alex Shulman
Richard Douglass, MPH, Ph.D.
Rashmi Roy
Roger Myers
Earlene Traylor Neal
Mary James
Elaine Williams
Clarence Gayles
Eric Foster

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Wayne Bradley, Sr.
Jerry Gumbleton
Paul Pierce

STAFF

Paul Bridgewater, President and CEO
Faiz Eshaki
Gloria Hicks Long
Anne Holmes Davis
Cheryl Dozier Forte
Gale Simmons
Kimberly Taylor
Arthur Caldwell
Marian Banks Nickelberry
Andrea Johnson
Karen Watson
Adrienne Warren
Rachel McLaury
Joyce Henderson
Sherry McGee
Serita Lockard
Barbara Owens
Leah Phippen

I. BREAKFAST

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Cheryl Dozier Forte called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
Noted that Mr. Bridgewater was out for an appointment and would be in attendance shortly.

III. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Dozier Forte introduced Mr. Clarence Gayles, District Director, Senator Buzz Thomas' office. Mr. Gayles requested a pardon for Senator Thomas' absence due to complications from a previous knee injury and expressed Senator Thomas' honor to be involved with this much needed system change.

IV. ORIENTATION TO SYSTEM CHANGE PROCESS

Anne Holmes Davis conducted a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following information:

- Background
- Mission of Detroit LTC System Change Task Force
- Partners & Stakeholders
- Governance & Process
- Project Time Line
- Outcomes
- Deliverables
- Meeting Process
- Media/ Advocacy Campaign Activities
- Roles of Task Force Facilitator, LTC Task Force & Leadership/ Steering Committee
- Role of Subcommittee Chairs, Subcommittee Facilitators and Support Staff
- Role of Contracted Researchers/ Experts
- Importance of Communications
- Board, Task Force & Program Reporting
- Conclusions

V. COMMENTS

Dr. Richard Douglass commented that this process is a celebration of a shift in broader age regarding medical care, medical aspect and Medicare and that he is very proud to be a part of this movement that is "wonderful and long overdue" adding that Medicaid would have benefited if this had started years ago.

VI. PURPOSE OF THE DETROIT LTC TASK FORCE

Mr. Paul Bridgewater defined the LTC Task Force to be a "campaign of information that will be used to move the community forward." He mentioned that this is his 29th year in the field of aging and he agreed that this process should have started long ago. He referenced Dr. Smith of Pennsylvania, Co-author of a national study on the quality of service in Nursing Homes. He named Michigan as the 2nd worst with Milwaukee leading and St. Louis tying for 2nd. With the LTC Task Force he plans on educating the community about system change focusing on nursing homes. Michigan nursing homes **compile** an approximate amount of \$170 million annually. And yet they still offer a poor quality of service overall.

Very few people are knowledgeable about Medicaid, long-term care, etc. No one has taken the initiative to offer a clear and precise explanation for complete understanding of all the changes that have taken place and what that means for its recipients. This Task Force will look at long-term care in its entirety and ensure that the consumers are able to let their voices be heard and get the respect, dignity and independence that they deserve.

On Tuesday, September 23, Mr. Bridgewater visited the legislative members that were unable to come to the _____. He was able to offer a visual aid on Detroit area nursing homes' lack of funding vs. the quality of service delivered to the community; noting that nursing homes in the Detroit area alone, have expenses at approximately \$170 million, \$32 million belong to Coleman Young, III and \$52 million belongs to Senator Clarke, who both are nursing home owners in Michigan. Dr. Smith of E. Lansing said that only the Area Agencies who pulled this team together are showing initiative and they plan to support the cause to the fullest extent. They are on stand-by for any assistance needed by the Task Force. Even, Governor Granholm addressed Mr. Bridgewater and said that she had heard about the grants for nursing homes. Mr. Bridgewater was pleased that this movement has gotten the attention of our Governor because the current nursing home industry's status is overlooked by the city of Detroit since the primary funding is through Medicaid; a program handled by the State of Michigan. He also acknowledged everyone on the committees and said that this system change has been launched with exactly the right people in place to engage State Legislatures and Bureaucrats. Mr. Bridgewater concluded with a statement that this is finally a REAL system change and thanked everyone for their support.

Before asking for questions and comments, Mr. Bridgewater announced that the Nursing Home Study Presentation would be held on Monday, September 29, 2008. He encouraged everyone's participation. The featured nursing homes will be those to be strengthened to contribute better quality services.

REVIEW OF TASK FORCE DESCRIPTION/ TIME LINE/ DIRECTORY

Anne Holmes Davis asked for everyone to look over the directory in Section 2 of the LTC System Change Task Force Resource Manual and report any corrections and/ or additional information to their Subcommittee Facilitator. She also asked for everyone to review the subcommittee descriptions and call appointed facilitator with any suggestions.

COMMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Davis announced Full Task Force Meeting to be held on Monday, October 13, 2008. Subcommittee meetings will launch after this date.

ROGER MYERS asked if everyone listed in the directory and appointed to a subcommittee had confirmed participation. Ms. Davis indicated that she was still waiting for some feedback.

Anne also asked that everyone report their own schedules to their subcommittee facilitator so that they can be incorporated into the master schedule.

Mr. Bridgewater requested that Ms. Johnson, Ms. Pecora and Ms. McLaury add as much to the website as possible so that people who can not make it to the meetings can still exchange and input information.

Dr. Douglass: Discharge planners at hospitals. Anne responded with "excellent idea".

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Dozier Forte asked that everyone gather with his or her appointed committees to greet and brainstorm briefly before leaving. Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.