

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Family Caregiving Workgroup Governor's Task Force on Caregiving			Attending: Lisa Pugh, Todd Costello, Susan Rosa, Rep. Deb Kolste; Jane Mahoney, Helen Marks Dicks
Date: 4/2/2020	Time Started: 11:00 am	Time Ended: 12:00 pm	State Staff: Faith Russell, DHS, Lynn Gall, DHS, Andrew Evenson, DWD; Allison Boldt, DHS Guests: Denise Richter
Location: Teleconference			Presiding Officer: Lisa Pugh and Todd Costello
Minutes			

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CAREGIVING Family Caregiving Workgroup April 2, 2020

- I. OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA - Lisa Pugh
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3/19/20
Deb Kolste moved to approve the minutes. Sue Rosa seconded.

III. DISCUSSION – PHASE I POLICY PRIORITIES

Given the experiences and procedural changes occurring due to COVID-19, how should we frame the TOP policy priorities for Phase I related to family caregiving? What is feasible, given the pandemic and likely fiscal impact? What bandwidth do you have to work on policy development over the next few months? Which policy do you want to work on?

The co-chairs received an email from Lisa Olson in the DHS Secretary's Office this morning, which included responses from the department on what they were doing related to the COVID-19 suggestions the co-chairs sent in a letter last week (see attachment). Some items included related to Family Caregiver Support Programs at ADRCs were:

- The 20% limit on supplemental services for the National Family Caregiver Support Program has been temporarily suspended.
- Resources and ideas from federal agencies and other sources are being forwarded to caregiver program coordinators as they become available.
- Jane Mahoney held a brainstorming call with AFCSP and NFCSP coordinators last week and started a listserve to distribute information to caregiver program coordinators. Jane learned that one or more programs have already switched to a virtual support group format, which functioned pretty well. Programs are being asked to "think outside the box" when thinking of how to deliver caregiver support services.
- GWAAR has some carryover funding available from last year, which counties can apply for to engage in special projects. There will also be additional COVID-19 funding coming to Wisconsin for caregiver support, nutrition and other Older American Act programs.

- Caregiver program coordinators and ADRCs have been doing more check-ins by phone call and as part of home delivered meal delivery or grocery delivery.
- ADRC services and caregiver supports being offered are personalized based on what each caregiver says they need. Every area in the state has services that are available, but not all services are available everywhere.
- ADRC staff remain available to the public by phone because they are considered essential services.

Rep. Kolste referred to an April 1 Legislative Fiscal Bureau memorandum on "[State Funding Under Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act.](#)" The memo provides an overview of federal provisions with the potential impact on Wisconsin.

It was asked if MCOs are aligning with other resources that they need given that some services are not available due to COVID-19? DHS is allowing MCOs to use other services. An Appendix K submission needs to be prepared by the department to show how MCOs will continue meeting needs. DHS is continuing to pay MCOs the capitated rate to help keep them afloat. MCOs are also attempting to work with other organizations in a regional way to reach people who need services.

Todd received a survey from one of the MCOs related to their capacity to provide mental health services and others services. They are starting the process of providing these.

IV. REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPRIORITIZE IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

- Legislative Package: Nothing to do in the short term. Consider adopting and expanding some of the recommendations to make shorter term flexibilities permanent.
- The CARE Act: In other states, The Care Act was being used to designate who is allowed to come in to hospitals to visit during the pandemic. However, this has now changed because hospitals are no longer allowing any visitors, even at end of life. It was agreed that right now there is no need to reframe requests for the Care Act. However, it was noted that any change that affects businesses is going to be harder to pass until the COVID-19 pandemic stabilizes.
- It was asked if there are questions related to medical leave that can be parked, and whether there are data or situations the workgroup should be tracking. It was suggested that the workgroup wait and see how adjustments/changes to paid FMLA play out on the national stage and to track public sentiment on it. A lot of people are going to be affected by job losses, and the whole idea expanding the FMLA may take on more urgency.

V. NEXT STEPS

- Decide on a reasonable timeframe for policy development
- Keep revisiting the proposals so we don't fall behind on movement of the legislative package.
- ADRC Enhancement – One member commented that when we come out of this pandemic, we're going to have to tighten our belts. Any addition of new programs will be a much harder fight than making sure that the programs we already have work well. The ADRC has what we

need, it just needs enough resources to make sure it can do what we need it to do. This person was pessimistic that the Legislature will have money after the pandemic, when businesses are scarping to make a comeback. The goal should be to make ADRCs synonymous with getting help and making sure everyone knows about them. How can we still accomplish without expectation of additional funding?

- It was stated that ADRCs and Older American Act programs are missing from regional meetings with Medicaid programs/providers. They should be included because caregivers of people who are enrolled in a Medicaid programs may want to access them. Regional discussions provide an opportunity to better integrate programs into one another. Relationships built during these meetings can last after the crisis of the pandemic is over. There has to be bigger thinking than people relying on calling 211.
Clarification was made that the regional quadrant calls will include ADRCs in the near future, but this has not been fully put into place yet. Lisa Pugh hopes that a local ADRC rep would be engaged in each of those calls.
- Faith Russell said that someone in BADR is working on providing the ADRC funding estimates that the workgroup requested but work has been delayed due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The information will be provided as soon as possible.
- It will be important to think about what the state's demographics will be when this is all over. How many more people are going to need the services of the ADRC because of economic hits and job losses that people are experiencing? There will likely be changes in ADRC service needs and user demographics.

Items to address before the next meeting:

- Caregiver Assessment – Providers and the state will be learning more about the needs of family caregivers through this crisis and what is needed to keep people healthy. Is it fiscally realistic to implement TCare now? It was suggested that DHS should track some of the questions in the TCare caregiver assessment now because the information is going to be more important.
- It would be helpful to have programs affected by the 2.2 billion in COVID-19 pandemic response funding explain how it will affect state programs and services, especially as it relates to the workgroup's recommendations.
- Share what services Task Force workgroup members are providing to family caregivers above and beyond what they normally do.
- Set aside the idea of a public outreach campaign for now.
- Decide how to use upcoming workgroup meetings (April 16 and May 6. Full TF scheduled for May 28. No workgroup meetings scheduled after that.)
- Target ideas for the next full Task Force meeting

VII. ADJOURN

Jane Mahoney moved and Sue Rosa seconded.

Prepared by: Lynn Gall, DHS Office on Aging on 4/7/2020.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 4/16/2020