

Unified Long Term Care System (ULTCS) Workgroup

Minutes July 14, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Sundermeyer, AARP
Brian Allen, UCHINC
Brett Kirkpatrick, Tri-Health Senior Link (PACE)
Cristal Thomas, EMMA
Cynthia Burnell, ODI
Doug Day, ODADAS
Erika Robbins, ODJFS
Hugh Wirtz, Ohio Council
Jean Thompson, OALA
Jodi Govern, ODH
Joe Ruby, AAA 10B
Kathleen Anderson, Ohio Council for Home Care
Mark Davis, OPRA
Mary Butler, Ohio SILC
Robert Applebaum, Scripps Center

ODA STAFF PRESENT

Barbara E. Riley
Roland Hornbostel
Mary Inbody

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Barbara Riley opened the meeting at 1:00 pm, expressing the subtle name change shift from ULTCB to ULTCS, demonstrating that rather than focus on the BUDGET, the Workgroup must be more about creating a SYSTEM as we move to the next phase of our work.

Federal Healthcare Reform Initiatives: Potential Impact on LTC Services & Supports

Cristal Thomas's PowerPoint presentation outlined the three federal healthcare reform efforts occurring in two Senate committees and the joint proposal of three House committees. Congress' aim is to get the bill passed by this summer. The Senate HELP proposal's inclusion of the CLASS act has been scored by CBO as providing an estimated \$58 billion savings between 2009 and 2019. All proposals include some level of Medicaid expansion, which raises questions about how states meet this entitlement, given the economy. Cristal also reminded the group that new versions are expected out shortly. ([The Federal Healthcare Reform Initiative PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online.)

Comments:

Kathleen Anderson mentioned federal reform proposed negative impact on home care: a 10 percent reduction (\$51 billion over 10 years) when home care makes up only three percent of the costs.

Hugh Wirtz remarked on the irony in the federal government's proposed "incentivizing of bleeding systems."

Implementation of Unified Budget Workgroup Recommendations in Am. Sub. H.B. 1

Barbara Riley spoke about the budget gains for a unified long-term care system in providing better balance and choice. She compared the following GRF lines to the Executive budget:

- 19% decrease each fiscal year in Operating Expenses
- 30% decrease each fiscal year in Senior Community Services
- 29% decrease each fiscal year in Residential State Supplement (all GRF-funded)
- 13% and 10% decrease respectively in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 for Long-term Care
- No change from Executive budget to Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman program
- No change from Executive budget to Senior Volunteers program
- No change from Executive budget to Alzheimer's Respite program

While Aging's budget is more challenging without this funding, Director Riley expressed her commitment to continuing ODA's efforts to build a unified long-term care system with the tools given, which include HOME First and the ability to forecast the need for both home and community-based services (HCBS) and Nursing Facilities (NF's) and transfer funds as deemed necessary and available. She announced that with a \$15 million reduction in the new LTC line each fiscal year and the corresponding loss in federal reimbursement, there will be waiting lists for HCBS. However, as demand for HCBS exceeds Aging's appropriations and if NF usage does not escalate, ODA can draw down dollars as referenced above from Fund 5R20, the Nursing Home Stabilization Fund.

HB 1 also included the following underpinnings in support of a Unified Long Term Care System:

- A single long-term care line for all home and community-based services, including PASSPORT, Assisted Living, PACE and Choices.
- Language allowing the state to seek a single waiver from the federal government
- An enhanced community living provision to increase the aging network's array of services.
- Case management for specified state plan services allowing for better coordination of care.
- Provisions for follow-up assessments.
- A HOME First provision for PACE (PASSPORT, Assisted Living and RSS programs currently have HOME First provisions.)
- Provisions for quarterly forecasting and re-forecasting of need around HCBS and NF services and for Aging to meet quarterly with ODJFS and OBM and the ability to move monies to accommodate the need, if available.

Director Riley indicated that the cuts to RSS have huge ramifications to the rest of the LTC system. There will be waiting lists which will need to be managed in a unified fashion, understanding that the whole funding pot is finite in nature. She affirmed that Aging will continue to lay the groundwork, build models needed to move the unified long-term care system forward, and review both short-term and the long-term strategies in an effort to better balance the system of long-term care in this state.

Comments:

Hugh Wirtz mentioned a [Bazelon Olmstead Act report](#) regarding issues around RSS and non-elderly with mental illness in nursing facilities.

Bill Sundermeyer referenced the four prior state budget cuts and urged the need to keep from “scapegoating” — sacrificing one system for another.

Mary Butler asked about statistics on the non-elderly (with disabilities) forced into institutional care due to lack of home and community-based services.

Update on HOME Choice

Erika Robbins provided a PowerPoint update and handouts of excerpts from the June 29, 2009 Technical Assistance Collaborative Report to be voted out by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in its July 15th meeting (and which will be made available on the ODA website). She defined balance as choice, flexibility and transparency (on demand).

HOME Choice has issued a level of care survey (due by July 27th) to elicit specific detailed information from mental health and child service providers and offer them an opportunity to get involved, while providing good data for level of care changes. Erika also mentioned other handout information available on the [Money Follows the Person](#) and [HOME Choice](#) websites.

Brainstorming Issues of Interest to the Workgroup during this Biennium

Roland Hornbostel asked the group to review the ULTC Budget Workgroup Purpose and Goals handout on mission, vision and strategies, asking for ideas to guide the scope of work for the ULTCS Workgroup into the future. Brainstorming suggestions included the following:

- Add reference to workforce with focus on accessibility, capacity and sustainability.
- Broaden the mission from “*create a budget...*” to “*expand the system and budget.*”
- Reinvigorate interest and participation of those of the original six departments not actively involved in the ULTCS Workgroup.
- Continue to pursue a unified budget and broaden the work to include systems work as well.
- Revisit the assumption that we need MITS fully deployed to reach full budget unification.
- No changes were suggested for values and guiding principles.
- Use areas of focus (not necessarily strategic work) to form the work plan for the next two years, e.g., HOME Choice rewriting rules across four agencies.
- Look at the entire LTC system as a whole system and work toward a comprehensive array of choices with supports, e.g., permanent supportive housing.
- Use quality and accessibility as driving factors, not just cost and cost savings. For example, if limiting institutional services, ensure quality and access, especially in rural settings.
- Use tactics to define choice under limited resources for the short term versus strategies for a full range of choices possible with greater resources in the long term.

- Use public education to capitalize on interest; a set of strategies and tactics about LTC services and supports.
- Examine other systems' workforce efficiencies for potential cross-system efficiencies models.
- Emulate nursing facility staff development provision in HB 1 by advocating for staff development for the rest of the LTC system.
- Look at federal dollars coming in (for housing) and ensure they are used where needed.
- Urge active involvement on the Workgroup by legislators.

Action Steps:

In response to questions about strategies being worked out now and any outstanding items, Cristal Thomas and Roland Hornbostel agreed to catalogue the ongoing efforts of workgroups and committees that impact ULTCS, e.g., RSS efforts to re-engineer around current economic realities by October 1st.

ODA agreed to circulate a "straw man" draft work plan based on comments received and revise it based on comments received, for ratification at the next meeting.

ODA agreed to seek legislative appointments to the ULTCS Workgroup by the next meeting.

ODA will seek an available August meeting date, and once the work plan has better defines the scope of the work, ODA will develop an ongoing schedule for meetings.

Director Riley closed the meeting by first conveying how truly impressed and grateful the Department of Aging is for the Aging Network advocacy efforts, and then mentioned the significant work to be done before the next biennial budget and the need for the ULTCS Workgroup to labor aggressively toward that end.