

*Connecticut Workgroup on Challenging Behaviors*  
Full Workgroup Meeting – 1/14/05  
25 Sigourney Street, Hartford

Members in attendance: Marilyn Denny, Laurel Wood, Jan Van Tassel, Theresa Velendzas, Michael Michalski, Kim Massey, Cristina MacGillis, Jennifer Glick, Karen Weingrod, Brenda Foreman, Joe Ierna, Gene Hickey, Julie Robison, Jennifer Keyes, Maggie Ewald.

Maggie Ewald opened the meeting. Following introductions, each of the three subcommittees provided updates on activities.

Policy Committee – Maggie Ewald reported that the policy committee has completed work on their research/position paper. Jennifer Glick provided an overview of her methodology and principal findings. Based on the paper, the Policy Committee has formulated several recommendations for policy and legislative changes. Maggie Ewald provided a brief overview of the committee’s ideas for future action on each recommendation.

Recommendations # 4 and #5 were noted as particularly relevant for this legislative session. Jennifer Glick and Maggie Ewald reported meeting with Senator Harris, new co-chair of the Select Committee on Aging. He was receptive to the recommendations and will be exploring the workgroup’s request for an OLR study to address recommendation #4 concerning quality of care and rate reimbursement. Joe Ierna urged timely legislative action and reported that the AA has featured the CBWG recommendations prominently in their “legislative priorities” materials.

We will have the opportunity to educate other legislators as part of the LTC Advisory Council Legislative Briefing at the LOB on Thursday, January 27 from 9:30-12:30 in the concourse. Plans are still being confirmed.

A discussion followed regarding follow up on remaining recommendations by relevant committees. The following lead assignments were reviewed:

Recommendation

# 1 - regarding best practices	Care & Case Discussion
# 2 - regarding special care units/assessment	Care & Case/OLR
# 3 - regarding special care units/disclosure	Policy
# 4 - regarding quality of care/rate reimbursement	Policy
# 5 - regarding CIT pilot	Policy
# 6 - regarding provider education	Training
# 7 - regarding LPN/CNA curricula	Training
# 8 - regarding in-servicing standards	Training
# 9 - regarding PASRR	

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Reinstate PASRR                  | Full workgroup-support DMHAS proposal |
| b. DSS/DMHAS/DMR review             | Policy                                |
| c. DPH survey/determination reviews | Policy                                |
| d. Home/community based waivers     | Policy                                |

Training Committee – Cristina MacGillis and Theresa Velendzas reported on planning for the next educational conference slated for April 2005. The conference will target more Administrators, Directors of Nursing, and Social Workers. Credentialing is still valid and will allow CEUs to be offered again. In addition to workshops, the committee is working on arranging a keynote speaker or panel of experts.

The committee is also working on a review of the state’s standards for CNA training to see what is being done to fulfill the mandate of an additional 25 hours specifically devoted to the care of residents with Alzheimer’s and dementia. A suggestion was made about the possibility of conducting focus groups on this issue. Since funding would be an Issue, the committee would need to explore existing resources. Jennifer Keyes suggested contacting AARP to inquire about the availability of assistance from their train the trainers program. Maggie Ewald will inquire with AARP.

Care and Case Discussion Committee – Michael Michalski reported that the committee continues to serve as a resource for discussion of crisis situations and has been helpful in developing several resolutions to date.

Laurel Woods added that the group has been discussing the need to change regulatory wording that prohibits APRNs and Clinical Social Workers from fully responding to behavioral situations in the nursing home. If professionals other than the physician/psychiatrist could be called upon to intervene in a potential transfer situation, more residents could be treated in the facility. Valerie Bryan is bringing this question to the Department of Public Health for review.

Jan Van Tassel inquired as to the status of a review of the W-10 process; specifically, how information is exchanged between providers. Concerns have been raised as to the accuracy of clinical histories, presenting symptoms, and other data garnered from the W-10 and the role it plays in care delivery. Theresa Velendzas suggests that the Care & Case committee can look at this issue and provide the Training Committee with direction.

The Policy Committee/Ombudsman staff will send legislative alerts out to the full workgroup as bill numbers and hearing dates are available.

The next meeting of the full workgroup will be **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00p.m.**, location to be determined.

Submitted 1/18/05  
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