

Meeting Minutes: Home Care and Assisted Living Program Advisory Council

Date: March 6, 2017

Prepared by: Lari Anne Mazzitello

Attendance

Council members:

Rene Cronquist, Amy Nelson, Jean Peters, Jarrod Peterson, Melissa Plachecki, Suzan Sinna

Minnesota Department of Health Representatives:

Jeri Cummins (via VC from Duluth), Cathy Griffin, Lari Anne Mazzitello, Kearim Meng, Cindy Vargas

Public Attendees:

- In Person (26);
- Telephone conference (2);
- Video conference at district offices: Duluth (1), Rochester (1)

DHS Customized Living Attestation (Aimee Rumpza)

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is contacting all licensed/temporary licensed home care providers (HCP) that provide customized living services and are enrolled with DHS. Providers are required to attest, in writing, that they comply with the new federal home and community-based services rule. The attestation is not required for HCPs serving only private pay clients. DHS expects over 5,700 attestations to be completed. For HCPs working within housing with services establishments (HWS), the HCPs are responsible for completing the attestation in cooperation with the HWS. The attestation will include survey and other documents showing how the HCPs are following the customized living rules. HCPs need only complete the questions that apply to the services they provide, not the entire form. HCPs must return the attestation to DHS within 30 days and be compliant within 90 days. HCPs may file for hardship extensions if they cannot be compliant within 90 days. DHS needs 100% compliance by March 2019 and is requesting compliance by March 2018 to allow time to transition clients away from providers that choose to leave the program. Email hcbc.setting@state.mn.us for additional support or training.

HCALP Advisory Council Work Group Update (Cathy Griffin)

During the February 2017 work group meeting, the council set priorities for action items. The top priority issues include: work force shortage, survey citations and improving public awareness. The council also discussed how to get involved with home care legislation. MDH shared a legislative participation guide with council members about how to become involved with legislative issues.

Charter (Cathy Griffin)

MDH drafted and presented a charter that outlines the council's structure, authority, and timelines for terms. The council discussed the draft and made a few recommendations for changes and additions. The final product will be brought to the council at the next meeting for approval.

Website (Cindy Vargas)

Discussion with the council focused on the need to clarify language regarding assisted living, housing with services and home care. There was general agreement that the provider and survey search tools need improvement and simplification. MDH is discussing ideas, but there are challenges due to the old database MDH uses. The program is working on adding historical data to the list of common correction orders, in addition to listing the most recent [quarterly correction orders](#).

There was additional discussion about posting survey and investigation results for the full records retention period; adding the ability to search for licensed providers by housing with services location; updating the OHFC investigation default dates; combining state surveys, federal Medicare surveys and complaint investigations into one search tool; and posting surveys and investigations under the new owner when ownership changes.

Updates (Cindy Vargas & Lari Anne Mazzitello)

A new [Home Care Revenue Worksheet](#) is posted to the website. The purpose of the form is to clarify what is and is not revenue from providing licensed home care services. The worksheet is a tool for providers and not to submit to the department.

There are two final candidates for the public vacancy on the council. A recommendation for appointment will be forwarded to the commissioner before the next meeting. Home Care Matters quarterly statewide calls begin May 4, 2017. Sign up for [email updates](#) on the website to receive registration information. The council supported the plan for MDH to host statewide calls.

Remaining FY 17 HCALP Advisory Council Meetings:

June 5, 2017, 2-4 p.m. Orville L. Freeman Bldg.