

DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION

Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus – Room 301

1901 N. duPont Highway, New Castle, DE

Meeting of January 11, 2005

MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Patricia C. Engelhardt; Walter E. Ferris; Karen E. Gallagher; Joseph M. Letnaunchyn; Rep. Pamela S. Maier; Sen. Robert I. Marshall; Thomas P. McGonigle, Esq. (Chairman); Brian L. Posey; Yrene E. Waldron; Dr. McKinley Wardlaw, Jr.

Commission Members Absent: Vicki L. Givens; Thelma G. Mayer

Others Present: Michele Dennis, RN, President and Chad Golden, RN, (Long Term Care Continuum Nursing Council); Sandra Dole, President (Delaware Council of Activity Professionals); Sean Finnigan (Senate Staff); Lisa Henry, (Delaware Healthcare Association); Tim Hoyle, Ombudsman; Social Service Administrator (DSAAPD); Mary Rodger, Project Coordinator, (Quality Insights of Delaware); June Valentine, Executive Director (Delaware Association of Homes & Services for Aging); Laura Waterland, Senior Staff Attorney (Disabilities Law Program); Carol Ellis, Director; Tom Murray, Deputy Director; Frank Monaghan, Investigations Administrator; Mitzi Murphy and Joan Reynolds Staff Support (Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection)

1. Call to Order

Chairman McGonigle called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. Approval of the Minutes for December 14, 2004.

The Minutes for December 14, 2004, were approved as written.

3. Presentation of "Overview of the Long Term Care Continuum Nursing Council (LTCCNC)," Michele Dennis, RN, President and Chad Golden, RN, Vice President

Michele Dennis, Director of Nursing (DON) at Brandywine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington introduced Chad Golden, Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) at Capitol Health Care and Vice President of the LTCCNC referred to as the DON Group. It has been in operation since 1998 and is essentially a forum where DONs, ADONs or any nurses working in long term care meet to discuss their issues, hurdles and challenges. Within the last 6-8 months LTCCNC has become organized with four officers and an executive committee consisting of nurses from the general council who meet and set the agenda for the general meeting, and thirty active members. All DONs in the State of Delaware are welcome to participate in this group. Mr. Golden elaborated on the committee's goals which include establishing a legislative voice, establishing best practice, to provide mentoring, to be a forum and educational arena for DONs in long term care.. Around 1990, the Delaware Association of Directors of Nursing disbanded and left a need for discussing long term care nursing issues that are quite different from nursing issues in other areas. To address the need for a long-term care nurses' forum, LTCCNC worked with DHCFA to establish a nursing council. Positive results show continuity and members staying in long term care. Presently, Delaware Association of Homes and Services for Aging (DAHSA) is offering administrative support. Discussion followed about the importance of presenting a united front between LTCCNC, DHCFA and DAHSA concerning legislation affecting long term care. Mr. Golden stated that as nurses, they feel whatever is best for the residents, supersedes anything else. The council's approach to education includes presenting an awareness of best practice; new requirements for skin wounds; how regulations are to be understood; the need for culture change in nursing homes; learning about new clinical issues; ultimately, presenting an holistic approach. Chairman McGonigle suggested that LTCCNC may from time to time be in conflict with Yrene Waldron's organization and the LTCCNC needs to be prepared to deal with that. Chairman McGonigle also suggested they inquire as to whether they need to register as a lobbyist.

4. Discussion of

- NCIC access update, Tom Murray, DLTCRP

Mr. Murray received information from Michael J. McDonald, who spoke at the December 14, 2004 Commission meeting. He had contacted the FBI regarding clarification on the recertification process for DLTCRP Unit Investigators that is

needed for having access to NCIC. Mr. Murray said that according to the FBI, since one half of the investigative staff are retired police officers, the FBI would accept a limited kind of certification similar to what is required of the Office of Attorney General Investigators. Mr. Murray wants all Unit Investigators certified. This will entail recertification in CPR and 16 hours of classroom training.

The DLTCRP Investigations Unit cannot use the NCIC system as a method of doing criminal background checks on applicants. The Unit receives the criminal history from the FBI then NCIC will be the conduit to communicate with originating agencies. Mr. Murray will report back to the Commission after he has examined the recertification process and after he has clearly identified that a substantial portion of funds is being used for law enforcement purposes.

- NHRQA Commission proposed Executive Director position and responsibilities.
(Brian Posey is acting Chair for Mr. McGonigle who had to leave the meeting.)

There has been no reply to Chairman McGonigle's letter to the Governor stating the Commission's position of wanting to move forward with securing an Executive Director. If the Commission is given permission to hire an Executive Director, there are questions of guidelines, procedures to follow, and the necessity to define a hiring process. Carol Ellis will research information on these questions for the Commission. Chairman McGonigle, after hearing from the Governor, will report back to the Commission.

- NHRQA Commission Subcommittee reports.

The Quality Initiative Subcommittee-

Chairperson Pat Engelhardt –October 26, 2004 meeting; a February meeting is scheduled.

Legislative Regulatory Subcommittee

Chairperson – Sen. Marshall – No meeting

Agency Review Subcommittee

Chairperson – Tom McGonigle – No meeting

5. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Gallagher stated she has a transportation problem that has been brought to the Commission's attention previously. It relates to DART arrival times for pickup after meetings. On occasion, the Commission adjourns either earlier or later than the usual time of noon. An early adjournment creates a long wait and a late adjournment necessitates Ms. Gallagher to leave before the meeting is over. Ms. Gallagher is reluctant to leave Commission meetings before adjournment realizing that a quorum is necessary for voting on an issue. As an Appointee by the Governor, it is Ms. Gallagher's understanding that DART provides special accommodations to either be on time or close as possible or to give some leeway when necessary. Ms. Gallagher requests that the Chairman or a Commission Member join her in drafting a letter explaining the DNHRQA Commission and ask DART to be flexible in arranging earlier or later pickups if necessary. It was suggested that the Chairman work with Ms. Gallagher and the Governor's office to orchestrate this request. As an interim solution, if Ms. Gallagher has to leave early, an important vote issue could be moved up in the agenda.

Discussion followed about the Delaware transportation system, that it does not meet the needs of people with special needs. There is no system in place for these people to remain active members of the community. Smaller facilities are less able to provide transportation. Ms. Waldron suggested the Ombudsman Office undertake this project with support from the DNHRQA Commission. The Acting Chair, Brian Posey will pass this information on to Chairman McGonigle.

Barbara Webb, Training Coordinator in DLTCRP is planning a nursing home administrator training session similar to the DON training session. Tom Murray will report on this training session.

Mary Rodger said CMS released a national press report that appeared in THE NEWS JOURNAL citing significant improvement in certain select quality measures being worked upon by Quality Insights of Delaware. The commission will invite Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center and Green Valley in Millsboro for the February meeting. They will offer a presentation on their national recognition and success as partners in the national nursing home collaborative on pressure ulcers.

Ms. Waldron reported that 83% of DHCFA facilities have signed the Quality First Pledge.

8. Public Comment

9. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, at 10:00 A.M.
The location will be Herman M. Holloway, Sr. DHSS Campus, Main Building, Room 301.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

FINAL MINUTES - The January 11, 2005 Minutes were approved as written.