
DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE
COMMISSION
Legislative Hall
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19904
FINAL

Meeting January 14, 2014
Minutes

Commission Member(s) Present: Brian L. Posey, Chairman; Pat Dailey Lewis, Esq.; Karen Gallagher; Representative Michael Barbieri; Vicki Givens; Yrene Waldron; Amy Milligan; Senator Bethany Hall-Long and Lisa A. Furber.

Commission Member(s) Absent: Kyle Hodges.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey; Barbara Bass, Aide to Ms. Gallagher; Lisa Barchi, DOJ; Kim Marsh, United Health Care; Carol Lovett, Consumer; Tom Murray, DLTCRP; Quinesha Harris, Governor Bacon; Bill Peterson, DE Veterans Home; Gwen Benton, DE Veterans Home; Les DePizzo, QI of DE; Katie Macklin, Alzheimer's Assoc; Victor Orija, State Ombudsman; Dana Casey, Home Watch Caregivers; Jim Nacchia, Home Watch Caregivers and Anne Priester, Delaware Hospice.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM by Brian Posey, DNHRQAC Chairman.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting of:

July 8, 2013, September 10, 2013 & November 12, 2013 meeting minutes were approved without changes.

3. Discussion of:

Alzheimer's Association

Katie Macklin, Executive Director for the Delaware Chapter of Alzheimer's Association, provided Commission members an overview. Four staff members are located in Delaware.

Alzheimer's is a progressive degenerative disease of the brain that affects memory, thinking and behavior.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the country. Five million American's have Alzheimer's and there are 15 million caregivers. 2013 costs associated with the disease totaled 203 billion (shared by Medicare and Medicaid).

The association provides caregivers support – there are currently 30 support groups throughout Delaware as the disease affects caregivers financially, physically and emotionally. The Delaware Chapter serves 18 counties located in: DE, Southeastern PA and Southeastern NJ. Currently, there are 294k individuals with Alzheimer's that are served through this Chapter - 26k individuals in Delaware have Alzheimer's or a related disorder.

Alzheimer's Association also provides consumer education: legal and financial.

The Delaware Chapter has a 24/7 helpline: (800)272-3900. The helpline is staffed by professionals and trained volunteers who provide information, emotional support, education, resource listings and general information to callers. The Helpline is partially funded by Genesis HealthCare.

In addition to an office in New Castle County and Georgetown, the Delaware Chapter has a training center located in Smyrna, DE: Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center. The training center offers fee-for-service professional training workshops to equip healthcare professionals with the tools necessary to provide quality care in residential settings. CEU's are available.

Nursing Home Information Technology

Les DelPizzo, Quality Insights of Delaware's Chief Operating Officer, provided an update regarding long-term care technology.

Currently there are 1,500 primary care physicians in Delaware that have received incentives for maintaining electronic health records (EHR) as part of the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009. Included in the law were funds intended to increase the use of electronic health records by physicians and hospitals.

Nursing homes in Delaware are not part of the incentive program.

QI of DE will be offering technology services, at a subsidized price, to Delaware nursing homes - so they may implement a software system. Contact the Regional Extension Center at: (866)475-9669 x4010 or www.dehitrec.org for more information.

Ombudsman's Program (LTCOP)

Victor Orija, State Ombudsman, provided an update to Commission members. The program has four LTC Ombudsmen; a Home & Community-Based Services Ombudsman; and a Volunteer Services Coordinator – all collectively work with the State Ombudsman to investigate and resolve complaints throughout the state.

The Ombudsman represents the interest of residents to protect their health, safety, welfare and rights. The Ombudsman acts as an advisor, advocate, catalyst and mediator. The Long Term Care Ombudsman advocates for residents who live in long-term care facilities as well as those who live in other settings (such as their own homes) and receive home and community-based services.

LTCOP often interacts with other state agencies regarding complaints of abuse, neglect, mistreatment or financial exploitation.

LTCOP services are available to residents free of charge. The program is funded by Federal and State dollars.

LTCOP hosts an annual Residents Rally (October) and is involved with Advancing Excellence Campaign efforts in Delaware. The staff works closely with the two managed care organizations and is involved with other quality improvement initiatives throughout the state.

4. Old Business/New Business

DNHRQAC 2013 Annual Report

Commission members approved the 2013 DNHRQAC annual report. Ms. Bailey will distribute the report to the Governor, DHSS Cabinet Secretary and Legislators.

Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities

Yrene Waldron suggested the Commission invite the Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities to attend a future DNHRQAC meeting. Ms. Bailey will contact DHSS about the request.

5. Public Comment

Life Conference

The sixteenth annual conference will be held on January 16, 2014 at Dover Downs. The purpose of this conference is to promote liberty and independence for everyone.

6. Next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 11, 2014** at 9:30 AM. The location:

Emily P. Bissell Hospital
3000 Newport Gap Pike
2nd floor conference room
Wilmington, DE 19808

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM by Brian Posey, Chairman.

Attachments: Regional Extension Center
Alzheimer's Assoc – DE Chapter
July 8, 2013 meeting minutes draft
September 10, 2013 meeting minutes draft
November 12, 2013 meeting minutes draft
2014 DNHRQAC meeting schedule
FY 14 JFC schedule