

Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council

Draft MINUTES April 9, 2019

Held at:

Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Conference Room 3A

Members IN ATTENDANCE: David Guttchen (Chair), Kathy Bruni (via phone); Mary Caruso, Kathy Flaherty, Denise Paladino, Sheila Mulvey, Therese Nadeau, Katie Regan (via phone).

Members not in ATTENDANCE: Sharon Denson (excused).

Other Participants/Members of the Public: George Chamberlin – Department of Social Services (DSS); Melissa Morton - Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Marie Hu – 1199 Training & Upgrading Fund; Deborah Schwartz – 1199 SEIU.

➤ **Called to Order**

- Meeting called to order by David Guttchen at 9:32 A.M.

➤ **Introductions**

- Introductions made by all attendees in-person and attending via conference call.

➤ **Motion to amend the agenda to swap the order of item number 4 – PCA Medicaid Provider Agreement and item number 5 - EVV Negotiations and Roll Out.**

- Motion made by Kathy Flaherty and seconded by Therese Nadeau. All in favor.

➤ **Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2019**

- Motion made by Kathy Flaherty and seconded by Sheila Mulvey. No discussion on the minutes. Six in favor. One abstention, Therese Nadeau abstained. Minutes accepted and approved as final.

➤ **Membership**

- David Guttchen informed the Council that he and Melissa Morton have been working with the new OPM leadership to move appointments forward.
- Melissa Morton reviewed the four open Council positions and asked members to actively recruit qualified individuals nominees to fill the vacancies. David noted that it is ideal to have multiple nominees for each category. He also stressed that members should inform potential nominees that positions on the Council are not guaranteed and, even if selected for membership, it could take some time to be officially appointed.
- Melissa will develop and circulate to members a one-page recruitment document that explains the Council, duties of membership, and the associated time commitment. Melissa also offered to send the recruitment document to attendees of the 2018 Employer Forum. Members were in support of that action.

➤ **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Negotiations and Roll-Out**

- Melissa Morton provided the following update on EVV:
 - The pilot period has concluded and 13 employers are using EVV.
 - A survey was disseminated to all pilot participants (employers and PCAs) at the end of the pilot period to gather feedback to inform the statewide roll-out. Responses were largely favorable with most respondents reporting EVV easy to use and customer service helpful. The majority of respondents also reported training to be good.
 - Mary Caruso informed the Council that her family is using EVV and it is a much easier timekeeping system than faxing. She believes the majority of employers and PCAs will like the system once they overcome their fear and get used to it. She provided an example of how it has helped her avoid timesheet errors.
 - The next round of Impact Bargaining between the PCA Workforce Council (led by Christine Cieplinski of OLR) and 1199 SEIU (led by Deborah Schwartz, 1199 SEIU) is scheduled for May 21, 2019.
 - Sheila Mulvey noted that consumer-employer feedback on the system is critical. Melissa noted that the DSS pilot and participant survey was intended to be the mechanism for gathering that feedback. Denise Paladino added that DDS has not rolled-out EVV yet and is still in the development stage. DDS anticipates using a similar survey process to DSS to gather feedback from DDS Consumer-Employers and PCAs. There are no plans for a formal DDS pilot.

➤ **PCA Medicaid Provider Agreement**

- David, Guttchen, OPM, informed the Council that, based upon feedback received at the October 11th Council meeting, the DSS legal team has developed a revised PCA Medicaid Provider Agreement using plain language. He noted that the revised

document appears to address many of the Council's concerns and is much improved from the prior version.

- Kathy Flaherty thanked Kathy Bruni and the DSS legal team for accepting feedback and making the revisions. She noted that the document is more user-friendly and less intimidating for PCAs.
- David informed members that DSS needs to implement the new Provider Agreement as soon as possible. Therefore, he asked members to review the revised document and provide any additional comments by no later than Friday, April 12th. It will be assumed that anyone who does not submit comments by Friday accepts the revised version.

➤ **Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

➤ **Other Business**

- There was no other business raised.

➤ **Motion to Enter Executive Session**

- Motion to enter Executive Session made by Therese Nadeau and seconded by Denise Paladino. All in favor. The Council entered Executive Session at 9:57 A.M.

➤ **Motion to End Executive Session and Enter into Public Meeting**

- Motion to end Executive Session made by Kathy Flaherty and seconded by Sheila Mulvey. All in favor. The Council entered back into a public meeting at 11:36 A.M.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn made by Therese Nadeau and seconded by Kathy Flaherty. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

➤ **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting of the Workforce Council is scheduled for July 9th at 9:30 AM at the Office of Policy and Management.