



HOME CARE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

<i>Members present:</i>	Don Bruland, Patricia Brost, Judy Cunio, Sharon Ely (via phone), Angela Munkers, Dayle Niemie, Lyla Swafford, Michael Volpe
<i>Members absent:</i>	Scott Lay
<i>Others present:</i>	Claudia Babcock, Jorja Brown, Joan Claypool, Barbara Evans, Glenna Niemie, Kim Poage, Carol Simonds, Abby Solomon, Cheryl Willcoxon
<i>Staff present:</i>	Yvonne Fleming, Leslie Houston, Kelly Rosenau, Cheryl Sanders

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Mike Volpe.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 5 were reviewed. Dayle Niemie stated that the first page of the minutes listed the meeting as being held on February 4 when it was held on February 5. Dayle also mentioned that Page 10 states that the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm when the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. Cheryl Willcoxon stated that on Page 2, HUBB Update, it reads, "Total increase in Kaiser medical/vision/dental is .28%." It should read, "Total increase in Kaiser medical/vision/dental is 2.88%." In addition, Page 10 stated that the next Commission meeting will be held on *February 5* when it should state *March 5*. **Motion** was made by Dayle Niemie to accept the minutes with the noted corrections. **Seconded** by Don Bruland. **Approved**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Volpe introduced Judy Cunio as a new Commissioner.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Abby Solomon, SEIU Local 503, reported:

- SEIU is having a lobby day at the Capitol on March 9 where HCWs

will join with other care providers from around the state to lobby on the proposed state budget.

- \$4.4 billion of the federal economic stimulus package has been approved for workforce development. SEIU lobbied to include a portion of that to be earmarked for workforce development for the homecare workforce. \$250 million will be available to states as part of a competitive grant process for training and workforce development in the health care field. SEIU will be forming a workgroup to work with congressional offices to put together grants that will continue to boast the programs that already exist and possibly create other workforce training programs. SEIU's national office is preparing guidelines to use in applying for the grants and is setting up meetings with Senator Jeffery Merkley's office who is interested in helping with this process.

OHCC BUDGET UPDATE

Claudia Babcock presented the "2007-2009 Home Care Commission Budget to Actual Report, July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008."

HUBB UPDATE

Cheryl Willcoxon presented sample benefit material packets that are being mailed out this week to approximately 5,500 HCWs, some who are already enrolled in the benefits program and others who are eligible to enroll. These packets announce open enrollment which starts on March 9 and runs for three weeks. During open enrollment, HCWs who are already on the plan can add family members and can change their dental plan. New HCWs who haven't enrolled can enroll at this time if they are eligible. The packets also include a benefit handbook which provides information about the insurance benefits available to HCWs through HUBB for the plan year beginning April 1, 2009 and ending March 31, 2010.

Cheryl reviewed HUBB's Enrollment Statistics report. New ODS/Kaiser medical/dental enrollments in February 2009 totaled 203. Total terminations were 148. In February, 42 HCWs enrolled in COBRA medical benefits and 43 in COBRA dental.

HUBB's medical/dental premium invoice to DHS for February 2009 totaled \$2,308,381.79 including adjustments.

Cheryl Willcoxon summarized the provisions of the American Recovery &

Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Title III – Premium Assistance for COBRA Benefits that was enacted into federal law on February 17, 2009. This new law continues coverage under COBRA provisions for group health plans of the private sector and state and local government employers. Premium assistance, eligibility, extended election period, employer reimbursement, documentation, etc., was covered in the summary. Cheryl Sanders and Cheryl Willcoxon are discussing how this would affect HCWs, what the definition of “involuntary termination” is, and how the process would work through DHS. They will be including others in their discussions.

STEPS UPDATE

Joan Claypool reported:

- 40 first time new consumers were trained in December. 1,196 total first time new participants have been trained since the project started.
- There were 68 new events in December. 2,227 events have been held since the project started.
- The monthly conference call with STEPS staff, STEPS trainers, and CIL Executive Directors was held on February 10, 2009.
- The STEPS Advisory Committee did not meet in February due to scheduling conflicts and a minimal agenda.
- Joan is continuing to talk with the CILs about their marketing plans and progress being made. She also made a site visit to LILA in Eugene.
- Joan visited Joe Easton in Portland because of the low number of STEPS referrals in Multnomah County. Joe is going to ask his case aids to refer others to ILR.
- The STEPS CCTV taping is scheduled for April 1.
- Joan presented the following charts to the Commission:
 - ✓ Number of New STEPS Participants Trained - 2007, 2008, and January 2009.
 - ✓ STEPS Eligibles Trained July 2008 through December 2008.
 - ✓ STEPS Feedback Forms Received from July 2008 through January 2009.

Tina Treasure requested that because of the economic condition, status of budget, etc., that the Commission decide whether they want to continue the STEPS project with SILC. If the Commission desires SILC to continue, they need lead time in order to negotiate with eight

different entities. SILC is asking for a contract to be in place by May 1 if the Commission wishes SILC to continue the STEPS program. Don Bruland asked for a discussion of the STEPS program to be placed on the agenda for the April Commission meeting.

TRAINING UPDATE

Leslie Houston reported:

- 45 training classes were held in February. One class was canceled.
- Total class attendance is estimated at 885.
- 3,156 unduplicated HCWs have been trained to date.
- 20 classes were at or near capacity prior to the event.
- Trainer B. Gail Hillyer had surgery to amputate part of her disabled leg. Gail will continue training after recovery.
- The Preventing Violence Against Caregivers (PVAC) Committee is still recruiting HCWs for participation in focus groups. The Training Newsletter contains contact information for HCWs who might be interested.

REGISTRY UPDATE

Don Bruland reported:

- The number of HCWs approved to work and career continues to increase.
- 172,084 HCW referrals were provided from December 2008 through February 2009. The developer is working on providing shorter, more usable lists of HCWs to consumers.
- Upgrades being made to the RRS:
 - Add a pointing finger to all appropriate places.
 - Limit referral lists to 20 HCWs.
 - Give added points to HCWs who go to trainings whether or not the consumer specifically asks for trained HCWs in the referral process.
 - Remove the "Employer Referral or Update" screen from the RRS which allows employers to get lists of HCWs without entering their service needs.
 - The Registry Committee will continue to discuss the proposal from Lane County to reinstate a jobs board in that area.

Cheryl Sanders reported:

- Leslie Houston and Wendy Sampels continue to train HCWs on the RRS throughout the State.
- Many of the field offices are using the criminal recheck letter that is

already formatted in the RRS which saves them time.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION UPDATE

Kelly Rosenau reported:

- 24 new claims were opened in January 2009.
- Slips, trips, and falls was the leading cause of injury types in January with lifting/transferring following next.
- Most injured body part in January was the back.
- One injury in January was caused by an altercation. As a result, one eye was lost, and the claim will be considered an amputation.
- 27 claims were accepted by SAIF in January; 4 claims were denied; and 11 claims were closed. There are a total of 141 active claims at this time.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Don Bruland presented a "Ready Book" which was developed to meet emergency needs for evacuation and shelter-in-place for a community's most vulnerable members, caregivers, companions, and service animals. These books include instructions, holder for picture of consumer, place for emergency phone numbers, place for a list of consumer's medicines and pharmacy, holder for important papers, list of an emergency supply "go-kit," list of an emergency supply "stay-kit," ID bands, a section for use by a shelter or medical care unit, door and/or window signs (OK and HELP), etc. This book is printed on waterproof, non-tearing paper and will cost \$10.30 each for an order quantity of 20,000. Don stated that other groups are also interested in purchasing these books. Don proposed that OHCC purchase these books for consumers presently being served by HCWs and for new consumers in the future. There are approximately 11,500 consumers at this time.

Patricia Brost made a **motion** that OHCC spend up to \$200,000 for the Ready Books. **Seconded** by Lyla Swafford. **Approved**. Prior to purchasing any books, the Commission will attempt to find others so as to get the best possible pricing. The Commission will decide on Ready Book distribution at another meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cheryl Sanders reported:

- Senate Bill 702 that is sponsored by Senator Morrisette and Representative Dembrow expands the authority of the Commission by amending ORS 410.600 and 656.039. Senate Bill 702 "amends

definition of 'homecare worker' to include individual whose compensation is funded in whole or part by the Department of Human Services, area agency or other public agency and to limit definition of 'homecare worker' to individuals registered with the Home Care Commission" (summary from Senate Bill 702).

- Cheryl distributed a fact sheet from Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI), an organization that works to improve the lives of people who need home and residential care—and the lives of the workers who provide that care. This particular fact sheet covered "Eldercare/Disability Services: Untapped Engine for Job Creation and Economic Growth."
- Cheryl mentioned that House Bill 2866 eliminates the expedited process for collective bargaining between a public employer and certain employees.
- Cheryl attended the following:
 - Brown bag meeting with SPD managers.
 - Meeting with Jeanette Burket and her managers.
 - Monthly meeting with Jeanette Burket.
 - Collective bargaining meetings.
 - SPD Legislative weekly meeting.
 - SPD Stakeholders meeting.
 - Monthly HCW Issues meeting with SEIU, SPD, and Labor Relations. One of the main concerns of this group is the large number of HCWs across the State, especially as new workers are coming into the workforce causing difficulties with workers already in the system trying to find work. Local offices can call Angela Munkers asking for permission to close enrollment for a certain time period in a certain area.
 - Monthly OHCC budget review meeting with Claudia Babcock.
 - Cheryl, Carolyn Ross, Angela Munkers, and Jenny Cokeley went to Roseburg to meet with field staff regarding their termination process.
 - Cheryl and Wendy Sampels met with OIS and Brett Brewer in Salem to discuss the download process due to the changes in the MMIS.
 - Cheryl, Angela Munkers, and Kelly Rosenau had a conference call hearing with SAIF.
 - Cheryl visited the mid- and northeast field offices of Multnomah County.
 - Vulnerable Population Emergency Preparedness Coalition

meeting via video conference in the Church Street building.

- Participated in a Medicaid Long Term Care Quality and Reimbursement Advisory Council meeting.
- Ways and Means meeting where the public was given an opportunity to discuss the impact of budget cuts relating to their personal experiences.

ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009, 10:00 am, 676 Church Street NE, Salem, OR.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Oregon Home Care Commission Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2009
- 2007-2009 Home Care Commission, Budget to Actual Report, July 1, 2007 through January 31, 2009
- American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Title III – Premium Assistance for COBRA Benefits
- HUBB Invoice to Department of Human Services, February 2009
- HUBB 2008-09 Plan Year Insurance Premium Summary, April 2008 – March 2009
- 2008 HUBB Enrollment Tier & Dependent Report, Plan Year – April 2008 – March 2009
- HUBB Enrollment Statistics – April 2008 through March 2009
- HUBB's packet of information for HCWs regarding their benefits for the plan year 2009