

Conversation on Resources for Senior Housing

April 20, 2018

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Dept of Human Services

Quakerbridge Plaza

Conference Room A&B

Minutes

Attendees:

Joseph Bongiovanni

Ivette Bosque

Stu Bressler

Amy Brown

Melissa Chalker

Courtney Christenson

Vanessa Coquillo

Maria DiMaggio

Catherine Hart

Jane Lemberg

Terre Lewis

Ann Lippel

Alisa Mead

Maria Naylor

Maria Pineda

Ana Puello

Diane Riley

Elmia Walker

Ronald Wong

Introductions

Review of Recommendation Report

The group provided feedback and suggestions for the report. Discussion included ways to improve the report, additions and deletions. Melissa will make edits and circulate the final report.

Next Steps for Report

The report will be sent to the Governor's office along with an invitation to further discuss the recommendations with the stakeholder group.

Also, the report will be shared with fellow advocates, beginning with a presentation at NJFA's conference on June 12th. The group will also pursue opportunities to present the information to APN and SHA.

It was decided that the report will not be shared with the NJ legislature or other local policy makers until a response is received from the Governor's office. If appropriate a public forum will be scheduled, as well as, making appointments with individual policy makers.

Updates from the Group:

Members of the stakeholder group shared updates from their organizations. Diane Riley shared that SHA is re-instating their investors council with the assistance of NJ Community Capital. Ron Wong from NJCC shared a flyer for the program. Ann Lippel talked about the concern for middle income older adults around housing, supports and tax programs- Melissa recognized the need for further discussion and will follow up with Ann to continue the conversation. Stu Bressler and Maria DiMaggio discussed further advocacy and collaboration with other organizations, this will be considered for further work of this stakeholder group.

DMAHS Updates

Joe Bongiovanni shared the current waiver being proposed to CMS regarding the Community Transitions allowance for MLTSS participants, the waiver will specify that a portion of the \$5,000 allotment should include a one-time pantry stocking and one-time clothing allowance of up to \$500 each. The state is asking for permission to expand this to any MLTSS participant leaving a nursing facility and not just those that are part of the MFP program. There is a 30-day public comment period for individuals can express concerns or make suggestions via the state's website. Once the waiver has been submitted to CMS the Federal Government also has a 30-day comment period.

Elmia Walker indicated that in addition to security deposits, application fees are also a barrier for those transitioning to the community Joe reminded the group that Community Transition funds are allowed to be used for application fees in addition to security deposits and other costs. MCOs must find internal solutions to providing timely payment for application fees.

Money Follows the Person Updates

MFP officially goes away on Dec. 31st. There will still be staff state dedicated to the project available until September of 2020. The responsibility for community transitions from nursing facilities will fall completely to MCOs. If someone is still under FFS and not enrolled in an MCO, then the Div. of Aging will assist.

MFP staff also shared that through partnership with HMFA, 36 one-bedroom apartments will be available across the state for individuals transitioning to the community under MFP/MLTSS.

Next Steps for Stakeholder Group:

A follow up meeting will be held later in the Summer to present the final report and further discuss next steps.