

LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 10, 2009  
10:00 a.m.  
Alabama Medicaid Agency Boardroom  
Minutes

Attendees:

Carol Steckel, Medicaid  
Linda Coleman, Senate Health Committee  
Mike Millican, House Health Committee  
Irene Collins, Alabama Department of Senior Services  
Dr. Don Williamson, Alabama Department of Public Health  
Kathy Hall, Medicaid  
Marilyn Chappelle, Medicaid  
Richard Powers, Alabama Department of Mental Health  
Linda Lamberth, Alabama Respite Resource Network  
Gwen Williams, First Data Corporation  
Graham Sisson, Governor's Office on Disability (via telephone)  
Karen Coffey, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services  
Gregory Martin, Alabama Hospice Organization--Hospice Family Care  
Anna Pritchett, AARP  
Dan Kessler, Independent Living Resources  
Audrey Middleton, Medicaid  
Katrina Magdon, Alabama Nursing Home Association  
Diana Bailey, Pine Valley Retirement Community  
Mark Trail, Health Management Associates  
Richard Brockman, Alabama Nursing Home Association  
Louis E. Cottrell, Jr., Alabama Nursing Home Association  
Frank Holden, Assisted Living Association  
Gregg Everett, Alabama Hospital Association.  
Christy Baynes, Dempsey, Steed, Stewart, Ritchey, and Gache, LLP  
Frank Brown, Alabama Nursing Home Association  
Doris Ball, Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Carol Brown, Southern Strategy Group  
Randy Frost, Alabama Department of Senior Services  
Mary Lawrence, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Mollie Bearden, Independent Family Support Council  
Terry Bryant, Medicaid  
Deidra Lemons, AARP  
Kim Bath, Medicaid  
Henry Davis, Medicaid  
Latonda Cunningham, Medicaid  
Robin Rawls, Medicaid

Ginger Wettingfeld, Medicaid  
Vivian Tuck, Medicaid  
Sigrid Laney, Medicaid

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carol Steckel who welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee. Commissioner Steckel opened with introductions, by recognizing two individuals who are special to the Committee: First, Senator Linda Coleman, Chairperson of the Senate Health Committee, who has almost single-handedly focused on the issue of how to care for the elderly and disabled and how the state can successfully provide resources to family members and recipients. Then, Representative Mike Millican, Chairman of the House and Health Committee, a leader in this and other areas.

***Senator Linda Coleman:***

Senator Coleman stated that it has been a team effort from day one. She said: “As many of you know, this is something we have been working on for a very long time in one form or another-- long term care and how we can provide a system of continuum of care of long-term care services. This is something that has been talked about for a long time. The timing is right, particularly with what’s going on with the national government. The State of Alabama will serve its citizens well and the legacy will be here for many years to come if we can get ahead of the ball game by coming together and doing what we need to do to fill the gaps. This effort could put Alabama at the top rung of the ladder, rather than at the bottom.”

Senator Coleman closed by saying, “Thank you for your willingness to help make this happen by coming together to look at the whole puzzle--by putting all the pieces of the puzzle together to see what the possibilities are.”

***Representative Mike Millican:***

Representative Millican stated, “It is good to be back in Montgomery. I am proud to have the opportunity to have a part in this effort and am sure this committee will do a great job and accomplish its goals.”

***Commissioner Carol Steckel:***

Nominations were opened for the Vice-Chair position. Irene Collins nominated Senator Linda Coleman. All were in favor of this nomination and it was accepted.

Commissioner Steckel gave an overview of the Joint Resolution and the charge of the LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee. The Commissioner also discussed the need for the Committee and Medicaid budget issues. In her comments, she addressed the federal initiatives such as the current health care reform debate. The Commissioner informed the group that we will lose the stimulus money in 2011 which makes this Committee’s activities so timely. “We have to look at a way to manage the Medicaid portion of this budget in a more effective manner given the growing population of the elderly.”

Commissioner Steckel reflected on two things that are most important in this effort:

- 1. This is the right thing to do for our citizens.** You have now taken on the responsibility of doing what is right for the citizens of Alabama.

## **2. The LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee will leave a legacy.**

Commissioner Steckel also offered two over-arching principles for the Committee:

- 1. Quality first** – nothing should be questionable, or limiting, or somehow lessen high quality care for the people we serve. Quality, safety, provision of services, and level of care are the primary elements of what is developed.
- 2. Effective payment system** – If you design a good quality health care system, effective payment follows.

The Alabama Continuum Long Term Care Proposal document from the packet was addressed. Commissioner Steckel stated: “The document is a first draft that was put together only for the purpose of providing an outline of where we need to go. This document should be edited in such a way that we will not recognize it when we are finished at the end of this period of time.” She also referenced the Olmstead document which outlines activities going on in all state agencies in the area of long-term care services for the elderly and disabled.

### ***Marilyn Chappelle:***

Ms. Chappelle discussed the roles of the LTC Rebalancing Subcommittees, committee charges, and the timelines for the Committee activities. Each of the five subcommittees was described in detail according to their purpose and function.

Ms. Chappelle gave an additional charge to the subcommittees—“The main responsibility is for your subcommittee to research and have discussions among your subcommittee members so that you can provide recommendations. Your report and recommendations will build the final product that is submitted to the Governor and Legislature.” Ms. Chappelle emphasized the short time frame in which the LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee must complete its work. She instructed the group to select a subcommittee based upon interest or area of expertise. She also stated, “The charges are provided to help each subcommittee to stay within the boundaries of your subcommittee as much as possible.”

Ms. Chappelle then introduced the Medicaid resource personnel and described their responsibilities. These individuals will assist the subcommittees throughout this process and will work to keep the subcommittees on track, corresponding by phone and so on.

Ms. Chappelle also referenced the information on the Medicaid web-site.

The LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee members were given the opportunity to choose the subcommittee on which they wished to serve. Each subcommittee went into a breakout session for 30 minutes to select the Chairperson and Recorder and to determine their next meeting date.

The LTC Rebalancing Advisory Committee reconvened to see if there were final questions or further discussions.

Commissioner Steckel adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:15 p.m.

