

State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



AGING COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 011
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
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Homemaker Companion Task Force

10/21 Meeting Minutes – 12:00 p.m. on Zoom and YouTube

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by co-chair Mark McGoldrick.

The following members were present:

Mark McGoldrick, Anne Foley, Michael Savoie, Leslie O'Brien, Sheldon Toubman, Lewis Bower, Christy Kovel, Maria Cerino, Mairead Painter

The following members were not present:

Tracy Wodatch, Chris Wanner, Anna Doroghazi

Co-chair McGoldrick welcomed the members and introduced Leslie O'Brien and her colleagues Pamela Brown and Wendy McWade from the Department of Consumer protection for their presentation on regulation of homemaker companion agencies (HCAs).

DCP presented on the registration requirements for HCAs, as well as new legislation regarding such registration. They also discussed the rise in HCAs in CT, and the lack of equivalent increase in DCP's HCA regulatory staff. They finally presented on the complaint and investigation process, and education regarding HCAs. Members asked questions regarding limitations on receivership authority, investigative protocols and timelines, staffing of the DCP investigative unit, and regulations regarding advertising of services not offered by HCAs.

DCP noted that receivership authority would be helpful to avoid shutting down agencies in case of infractions, and that a major concern is that divided authority for services is confusing for agencies and consumers. Mr. Toubman requested DCP provide information regarding time for resolution of complaints.

Co-chair McGoldrick introduced Barbara Cass and Jill Kennedy from the Department of Public Health. They discussed the CT Home Health Licensing process and the specific definition of agency activities covered under the license, and the difference between homemaker companion services and home health agencies. They presented and took questions on other states' licensing regulations for homemaker companion agencies, as well as the fiscal impact of instituting a license process for homemaker companion agencies. DPH also took questions on the investigative process and the process for filing complaints against agencies, and agreed to provide additional information regarding the number of home health aide agencies currently licensed.

Co-chair McGoldrick announced the date of the next meeting, a public hearing scheduled for November 4th at noon via Zoom and YouTube Live.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.