

State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



AGING COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 011
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
TELEPHONE (860) 240-0090

Homemaker Companion Task Force

12/16 Meeting Minutes – 10:00 a.m. on Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by co-chair Anne Foley.

The following members were present:

Anne Foley, Michael Savoie, Sheldon Toubman, Christy Kovel, Maria Cerino, Tracy Wodatch, Chris Wanner, Leslie O'Brien, Mairead Painter, Anna Doroghazi

The following members were not present:

Mark McGoldrick, Lewis Bower

Co-chair Foley welcomed the members and revisited the draft potential recommendations as they stood at the close of the previous meeting, noting that recommendations which would require additional resources were highlighted green. Members discussed the proposal to rename Homemaker Companion Agencies to Non-medical Home Care or Non-medical Home Service Agencies, and DCP's objection to the phrase "care" being used. Members also discussed recommending that the state should provide more frequent unannounced compliance checks, as well as the proposed transition in HCA oversight from DCP to DPH and what resources would be required for such a transition to occur, given the logistical hurdles and numerous vacancies in DPH's licensing and investigative section.

Members discussed the pros and cons of a form of electronic visit verification for homemaker companion agencies, and whether it would be appropriate to study such a proposal in more depth, as well as the need for more funding for the community ombudsman program. Members then discussed the complaint resolution process and whether state revocation of licensing should be permissive or required in event of an agency being in gross violation of statute, as well as what the receivership process for clients of a closed agency would look like.

Members removed a recommendation that HCA contracts must detail how to file a complaint, upon learning that this is already an existing requirement. Members discussed the viability of a state-provided model service agreement, and how it would benefit HCAs and clients. Members discussed caregiver training and memory loss training, as well as priority order for recommendations, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Members discussed the percentage of HCA clients with dementia or memory loss, and how that would impact the associated advertising and training of HCAs for providing services to individuals with memory loss. Members also discussed fines (to occur after the enactment of a plan of corrective action) for violating advertising regulations for HCAs. Members added a bullet point regarding recreating and updating an HCA consumer brochure from 2012. Members discussed the need for the existing system of regulating HCAs to be adequately resourced, as well as updating the state website for HCAs. Members removed a recommendation for a quality rating system for HCAs.

Co-chair Foley announced the date of the next meeting as January 9th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom and YouTube Live.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.