

***Division of Health Facilities
Long Term Care Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
July 8, 2021
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm***

Committee Members Present:

Tim Wiedrich, Chief, Health Resources & Response Section, ND Department of Health
Bridget Weidner, Director, Division of Health Facilities, ND Department of Health
Kathy Laxdal, Program Manager, Division of Health Facilities, ND Department of Health
Rocksanne Peterson, Recorder, Division of Health Facilities, ND Department of Health
Cynthia Tredwell, Chairman of the NDLTC Association, Hatton Prairie Village, Hatton
Peggy Krikava, Education Director, ND Long Term Care Association
Pete Antonson, Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators
Shelly Peterson, Executive Director, ND Long Term Care Association
Karla Backman, State LTC Ombudsman, ND Department of Human Services
Dave Nelson, Division of Life Safety & Construction, ND Department of Health
Lisa Thorp, Quality Health Associates
Natasha Green, Quality Health Associates
LeeAnn Thiel, Administrator, Division of Medical Services, DHS
Dr. Bruce Hetland, Bismarck Medical Director, Nursing Home Medical Directors Association
Michelle Lauckner, Quality Health Associates

Also, present:

Nizar Wehbi, MD; State Health Office, ND Department of Health

Committee Members Absent:

Char Schmidt, Regional Vice President, Edgewood Healthcare
Carole Watrel, AARP
Joan Ehrhardt, Consumer Representative
Randal Albrecht, Consumer Representative
Representative Gary Kreidt, ND House of Representatives (New Salem)

Welcome

A meeting of the Long-Term Care Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on July 8, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Tim welcomed everyone and introductions were made; each of us explained who we represent. Dr. Nizar Wehbi is joining us today. Bridget Weidner is the new director of Health Facilities; she introduced Kathy Laxdal and Kelly Beechie. Kathy is the Long-Term Care program manager and Kelly is the Non-Long-Term Care program Manager.

Dr. Wehbi shared a few words with the council. He started on May 1, 2021; and is excited for the opportunities. What drew him to ND was our innovative spirit and the fact that we were open to trying new ideas. Another aspect that drew him to ND was our collaboration; he saw a lot of examples of people coming together for the good of the community even if they have different views or don't agree. If we want to move forward, we need to come together and be open to new ideas. He talked about the work in long-term care (LTC) during COVID and his experience in LTC.

Public Comment (1:10 pm)

No Comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 13, 2020, the Long-Term Care Advisory Committee meeting were distributed and reviewed. There is one correction in the minutes; instead of eMPRO should be MPRO. Michelle Lauckner made the motion to approve minutes with corrections; Shelly Peterson second. Motion carried.

Organizational Transition – Tim Wiedrich

- Tim spoke about the merger or integration of DHS and DOH. There have been major milestones meeting with management team. The team is in the process of soliciting a consultant to assist with the merger. The merger needs to be completed by September 2022, there is a lot of optimism as well as some apprehension. There will be some refinements to the business processes. There are some Department of Health components that need to be at arms lengths or separate from the Department of Human Services. Questions or comments from council members: none.
- As a section, Health Resources and Response only had 8 weeks as a section when the COVID pandemic hit. The merger of the Emergency Preparedness & Response Section and Health Resources Section has gone well. There is some integration of systems that we are still working on. Some of these are the integration of databases for licensure.

Vision Setting – Tim Wiedrich

Purpose of the Advisory Committee: we want to be transparent and address issues and concerns when they arise. The major area we would like to look at is to look at is programs and program areas and to make improvements or make changes where we have control over. Tim hopes this can be more where we have a dialogue versus reporting.

Reports & Updates

Legislative Update: – Rep. Gary Kreidt

- No report.

Long Term Care Association: Shelly Peterson

- St. Luke's Sunrise Care Center announced they will be closing. Workforce is a huge issue.
- Shelly participated in a groundbreaking ceremony in Cooperstown.
- OSHA came out with new requirements regarding the pandemic for hospitals, nursing homes, basic care, and assisted living; this has been disheartening. The rules went into effect July 6, 2021. It is a payment issue. The committee discussed the new requirements. Some facilities have implemented a plan for the new requirements, but they feel it is over the top.

- Implementing a new payment model January 1, 2022.
- Shelly talked about the value of the temporary CNA; she appreciates the Department of Health for allowing the temporary CNA on registry. Shelly spoke about contract nursing and quality standards. Work force is a huge issue in the facilities. She would like to visit about setting limits for contract staffing/nursing.
- Peggy gave an update on upcoming conferences. The administrator conference will be held the end of July and the Long-Term Care conference will be held August 24-27, 2021. Dave doing two sessions for Life Safety & Construction.
- There are two positions open on the board of examiners.

Quality Health Associates (QHA) of North Dakota: Michelle Lauckner/Lisa Thorp/Natasha Green

- Michelle Lauckner gave an update on the Quality of Health goals and contract. The contract extends to 2024. Reducing drug events, reducing emergency room visits, and the use of opioids are just a few she mentioned.
- Michelle also gave an update on the education for Quality Health Associates, Project ECHO, Partnership to Reduce Dementia Care and the Music and Memory Care Program.
- Lisa Thorp and Natasha Green spoke about Great Plains Quality of Care Coalition Partners. The next meeting is in August. Some of their targets are like Michelle's. Their strength is facilitating conversations with facilities in the communities. Kathy asked about the F880 directive for the facilities to reach out to QHA. Health Facilities has QHA as a resource, but it is not written into the contract that QHA must work with the special focus facility. Michelle didn't feel that it is a requirement that a facility for with QHA. Kathy asked about the late adopters, ND and SD still are sitting about 40-45. QHA is still looking at improving those quality measures. The relationship with QHA is very important.

Nursing Home Medical Directors Association: Dr. Bruce Hetland

- Dr. Hetland gave an update on the nursing home medical directors association. It is very hard to get the medical directors involved with the association. It has become more of a regional association than a statewide association.

State Ombudsman: Karla Backman

- The ombudsmen are back into the facilities. The residents and staff are happy they are back. During the pandemic the volunteer program was shut down, unfortunately the program lost a lot of volunteers. The program even lost one to COVID. The biggest news is ND has a settlement with the Department of Justice regarding people having the option to live in the setting they choose (Home and Community Based Options/Services). It was suggested to include Nancy Nicholas-Maier in future meeting.
- Ombudsman are reporting everything is back to normal.

Medicaid Program: LeeAnn Thiel

- The new payment system is the new focus and implementing what came out of legislative session.

Division of Health Facilities: Bridget Weidner/Kathy Laxdal

- Bridget Weidner gave an update on filing complaints on the Division of Health Facilities website.
- Kathy Laxdal gave an update on the citation frequency reports for the fiscal year 2021 for complaint and standard surveys. F0508 Notify of Changes, F0689 Free of Accident, and F0658

Services Provided Meet Professional Standards are three most cited complaint tags; F0658, F0880, F0812 most cited standard tags.

- Shelly inquired if we had heard anything about the mask requirement.
- Shelly inquired how the Special Focused Facility is selected. The Special Focused Facility is selected by Health Facilities and CMS.
- Bridget and Kathy gave a legislative update. They will be writing rules for residential end of life, extend stay centers and LTC essential caregivers. There was a brief discussion regarding the selling of the nursing home beds in lay way to basic care facilities.

Division of Life Safety and Construction: Dave Nelson

- No citation frequency data available. Last information available was reported in February 2020.
- As of October 2020, LSC is now fully staffed. Plan reviews are now caught up.
- Dave gave a legislative update; he spoke about SB2241 and the timelines for the delivery of plan reviews from LSC. He also spoke about the third-party reviewers. There is a possibility of two projects that could use the third-party reviewers.
- Dave also reported they will be getting the newsletter back out there.

Consumer Representatives:

- No reports.

Old Business:

- MPRO Contract: Bridget Weidner
 - Based on the feedback we received from the LTC – it has been decided to discontinue the contract.
- Waiver Rules: Tim Wiedrich:
 - We will be starting the waiver rule process over.

New Business:

- Membership of the Committee: Bridget Weidner
 - It was recommended to reach out to the consumer representatives and see if they are still interested in being on the council. Karla has not been able to reach out to the people she was going to. Bridget suggested adding someone from the Environmental Association. Dave will reach out to the Environmental Association. It was recommended to add Kelly Beechie, Lisa Thorp and Natasha Green to the committee. Please submit the names of the additional committee member names to Rocksanne.

Next Meeting Date and Time:

- Date – Please bring your calendars (Hybrid- for future meetings) next meeting in October.
- Future Agenda Items
 - Criminal History Record Check; Shelly Peterson would as a future agenda item.
 - Issue on Resident Record Requirements; Shelly Peterson would as a future agenda item.

Adjourn at 3:10 pm