Assisted Living Advisory Council (ALAC) Meeting Minutes
December 19th, 2019
10:00 am
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Manning Conference Room – 1 Ashburton Place, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

ALAC members: Mary Jo Boynton, Linda Cornell by phone, Brian Danaher by phone, Kim Martone, and May Shields.
EOEA staff: Secretary Elizabeth Chen, Matt Casey, Siobhan Coyle, Trisha Marchetti, Mark Miller, and William A. Travascio
Guests: Beth Anderson, EPOCH Senior Living, Joe Carella, Scandinavian Living Center, Brian Doherty, Mass-ALA, Kathleen Moncata, MassNAELA, and Elissa Sherman, LeadingAge MA.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Secretary Chen.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review of Minutes:

Secretary Chen if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24th, 2019 meeting. Mary Jo Boynton made a motion to approve the motion, it was seconded by May Shields. The minutes were approved by all those present and on the phone.
4. EOEA Updates:

Trisha Marchetti began by responding to a question that came in via Mary Jo Boynton. Residents are not required to be sent to the hospital after they have suffered a fall. ALRs are required to have a policy in place regarding emergency situations, but they should look to the resident for a directive if they want to go to the hospital. Trisha noted that ALRs are a residential model; it is not a medical environment, but they should always call 911 to assess a resident if they have suffered a potentially serious fall. The Secretary responded that EOEA would only cite a residence if it did not report the incident within 24hrs of its occurrence. It was noted that this would only be in a case where a resident did go to the hospital. If a resident fell and did not go to the hospital, the ALR is not required to report that to EOEA, but it should be documented. If a resident fell and did not want to go to the hospital, the refusal should also be documented.

There was then a discussion about 911 being called when a resident falls. If an ALR has it in their policy that they will file an incident report with EOEA every time 911 is called, then EOEA requires the ALR to follow their policy. It was noted by Mary Jo and Trisha some ALRs have it in their policy to call 911 any time there is a fall. Matt said that subsequently some municipalities have complained to EOEA about sending resources to an ALR for non-serious incidents.

Linda Cornell said that, in the community where she works, the emergency services in that community require that they be called even if it is for a lift assist. Most of their 911 calls are for that circumstance. Matt responded that the incident report would need to state lift assist. The Secretary indicated that the residence should find another way of contacting the municipality, i.e., some other way than through 911 or develop a relationship with a private company that can provide the lift assist.

Siobhan Coyle had an update about a law passed in 2018 requiring EOEA to develop an LGBTQI+ training. EOEA contracted with the Fenway Institute and the training design was just finished . Next the training will be piloted, and if an ALR would like to be part of it than they would need to have their own online Learning Management System (LMS). There is not a deadline yet for when the training would need to be completed, but the statute requires that all new hires complete it within 12 months of hire. Everyone who is part of the EOEA and OLTSS provider networks would be required to take it.
5. Industry Updates:

Brian Danaher mentioned that, since the last ALAC meeting, new sites have opened in Newton and Marlborough. Another Benchmark site will be opening in Framingham soon as well.

Brian Doherty, Mass-ALA, then provided three updates for the Council. First, with respect to falls prevention, Mass-ALA’s Resident Care Committee will revise the falls prevention tool kit and promote it for use by ALRs. The Committee is mostly comprised of nurses working at ALRs. Mass-ALA has also partnered with other organizations that have a evidence-based falls prevention programs. Once the falls prevention has been revised, Mass-ALA will share it with the administration.

Second, Brian gave an update about the Supreme Judicial Court recent ruling. Mass-ALA is concerned about the long-term consequences of the ruling. Matt asked about the decision; residency agreements are not standardized across the industry and there is the possibility that the facts may vary in subsequent cases.

Third, Brian stated that Mass-ALA would like to help EOEA with the rollout of the LGBTQI+ trainings and provide in-person trainings wherever possible. He noted that it could be tied into other in-person trainings, and he added that there is a nurses’ training coming in April.
6. Other Items for Discussion:

Mary Jo asked about a piece of legislation that would make ALAC larger. Brian Doherty said that this item was filed by Rep. Garlick and it is supported by Mass-ALA. In the proposed legislation Mass-ALA and LeadingAge MA could each appoint someone to the Council. It would also propose adding a legislative representative and additional consumer seats. The bill has been reported on favorably by the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs. Siobhan replied that a copy of the bill could be circulated. Kathleen Lynch Moncata, Mass-NAELA, responded that the number of consumer seats would be expanded to 5 seats. The length of terms for ALAC members would be expanded to four years and would run parallel to the Governor’s term. Mass-NAELA’s concern is that the consumer voice not be diluted. She added that there has been a vacant consumer seat for some time on the body.
7. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at: 10:35 am.