Personal Care Attendant Quality

Home Care Workforce Council

## 1 Ashburton Place, 11th Floor

## Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Tel: (617) 573-1712

[www.mass.gov/pca](http://www.mass.gov/pca)

Email: [pcacouncil@state.ma.us](mailto:pcacouncil@state.ma.us)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MassPCA

CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor

KARYN E. POLITO

Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS

EOHHS Secretary

# Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Council

Council Meeting

General Session

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|  | April 13, 2021 | 2:00-3:30 p.m. | Zoom Conference Call |

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| coUNCIL  members in attendance | Lauren Peters, Karen Shack, Christopher Hoeh, Kristen McCosh, Ann Ackil, Cindy Purcell, Janet Rico |
| Council members not in attendance | Joe Tringali, Tim Kunzier |
| Staff attending | Michelle Byrd |
| chair | Lauren Peters |
| Note taker | Michelle Byrd |
| agenda setting | No issues were added to previously-issued agenda |

Lauren Peters called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. **Council organizational matters**

Review and approval of the minutes from the February 9, 2021 and March 30, 2021 Emergency Council meetings

Chris Hoeh made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes. Janet Rico seconded the motion and the minutes, without edits, was approved by council members. A second motion was made by Chris Hoeh to approve the March 30, 2021 Emergency Meeting, seconded by Ann Ackil, and approved by unanimous vote.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**
   1. Advancing Racial Justice and Equity in the PCA Program

The steering committee met and agreed to hire an independent consultant to guide the work of the group including:

* + - Development of the Scope of work
    - Facilitating meetings following the committee’s stated strategic plan
    - Planning listening sessions

Lauren will plan a follow-up meeting next week.

* 1. COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

The Commonwealth has reached the milestone of two million vaccinations having been administered. Eligibility guidelines have been opened to the broader population including people with disabilities and homebound consumers. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine has been paused pending further investigation of reported adverse effects. Becca noted that the Union will be assisting in encouraging PCAs and their consumers to be vaccinated.

* 1. American Rescue Plan Funding Update

Lauren informed Council members that an RFI will be prepared to solicit suggested ideas for use of the funds. Chris asked about the timeline. Lauren stated that the RFI would be issued shortly. Simultaneously the Commonwealth was also waiting for additional guidance from CMS on how funds could be spent. EHS anticipated that it would take 2-3 weeks to receive this additional federal guidance. Lauren offered to provide members with a link to the RFI synopsis once issued.

1. **PCA Program Update**
2. FFCRA Sick Leave Benefits; Follow up information from March 30 meeting:

Julian provided clarification on outstanding questions from the March 30th meeting. He noted that partial time may only be used for childcare issues. Full days must be used for all other reasons. There will be no carry-over hours of existing balances applied prior to April 1, 2021. Guidelines will use the dates of service.

The new policy guidelines will go into effect on April 1, 2021. Existing FFCRA policies will be used for dates prior. There will be considerations for possible side effects of the Covid-19 vaccinations suffered by PCAs. Notices are being sent to consumers and PCAs on these changes effective for the dates of April 1 – September 30, 2021.

1. Recruitment and Retention Update
   * PCA Directory workgroup

Lisa Marschke reported that the PCA Fundamentals of Home Care course is now available on-line. Efforts are on-going to provide information sessions about the course at annual presentations provided by the R&R group.

Lisa also shared that a “directory direct marketing campaign” is targeted for Worcester County now through June 30th. The group is actively working on fixing any broken links and efforts to collect consumer feed-back will begin soon. New directory recruitment tools have been created including a job panel video project with participation of four consumers providing feed-back on hiring strategies and management of PCA workers. A draft questionnaire is being finalized and will be sent to Council members for their review and feed-back. Lisa requested that members respond by Friday, April 16th.

Chris Hoeh updated the Council on his efforts working with EOHHS Publications to increase the visibility of the Council on the MassHealth main landing page.

1. MassHealth Report
   * Update on EVV implementation

Jarred Damico reported that the agency selected to provide F.I. services will replace the current agencies providing services beginning January 2022. The EVV implementation will follow the plan put forth in the RFR proposal submitted.

Jared encouraged questions about the plan from Council members. Lauren reported that feed-back and suggestions will be solicited from the Union as well as other stakeholder working groups. Jarred noted that public listening sessions will be on-going to address policy, training issues, etc.

Ann Ackil asked if the implementation plan will be provided to Council members. Jarred assured the Council that on-going communications will be provided. Lauren added that time-lines for implementation of EVV with the new F.I. will be shared. Sherri Hannigan also stated that the selected agency will participate in the EVV workgroup so stakeholder’s will be included in all developments.

Paul Spooner raised a question regarding revaluations stating that re-evaluations for current agencies were only for 1 year instead of 2. He asked if this was part of a larger policy change. Both Kristen McCosh and Cindy Purcell also noted this change. Sherri Hannigan stated that there was no policy change and revaluations should be for 2 years. Sherri noted that she will ask Optum for more details and Lauren will share information she receives with the Council.

With no other agenda items for discussion, Lauren thanked participants and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Hoeh made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Cindy Purcell. The motion passed and Lauren adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Byrd