Personal Care Attendant Quality

Home Care Workforce Council

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# Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Council

Council Meeting

General Session

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| Minutes | February 9, 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, Tim Kunzier, Ann Ackil, Cindy Purcell, Janet Rico |
| Council members not in attendance | Joe Tringali |
|  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 2:00 p.m.

1. **Council organizational matters**

Review and approval of the minutes from the December 8, 2020 and January 12, 2021 Emergency Council meetings

Chris Hoeh made a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 minutes. Karen Shack seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by council members. A second motion was made by Chris Hoeh to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021 and was seconded by Cindy Purcell. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**
2. Review and approve annual Legislative report

Cindy Purcell asked for a motion to approve the report. Chris Hoeh seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote by Council members.

1. Update on Advancing Racial Justice and Equity in the PCA Program

Lauren Peters reported on the work carried out by the sub-committee. Members recommended a series of listening or “brainstorming” sessions focusing on the role the Council can lead in advancing racial justice and equity in the PCA workforce including training, orientation, and directory access efforts. The Council will also make efforts to expand the membership to a larger cohort. Lauren will share further updates and feed-back from the sub-committee with Council members. Lauren suggested EOHHS staff including Lisa Marschke, Louise Gorham, Amy Bianco and Michelle Byrd assist in the development of invites, facilitation and project management. Additional participants may be invited to participation. Council members could make nominations along with nominees provided by 1199 and other agencies and organizations. Council member Karen Shack and Kristen McCosh expressed interest in participating. Becca Gutman of 1199 would participate along with PCAs of color.

Steps going forward. Council members along with1199 will develop a list of invitees to the sub-group and schedule a planning meeting and listening sessions.

1. Update on COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

Lauren reported that Stage I includes health care workers. On-line appointment scheduling will be active soon, so workers are encouraged to keep checking back for available appointments and utilize other resources such as availability at other vaccination sites or by other providers. Stage II will be effective February 1, 2021 for 75+ individuals as well as those 65+ with co-morbidities.

1199SEIU is supporting outreach efforts with PCA’s by partnering with community groups and handing out PPE to those attending vaccination sites. PCAs can provide attestations as documentation for receiving vaccinations. Chris Hoeh expressed consumer’s concerns and hesitancy regarding the safety of the vaccines and asked what efforts the State is providing in regard to outreach. Lauren noted outreach campaigns and peer-to-peer communication efforts are underway and will keep Council members informed.

1. Budget Update

A budget update will be provided to Council members.

1. **PCA Program Update**

A. Recruitment and retention update

Lisa Marschke provided updates to Council members regarding the Train the Trainers Workshop as well as on-going collaboration with MRC and new collaboration with the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants. A pilot project focused on PCA job panels was developed with the Greater Lawrence and the Northeast Independent Living Program.

* The Mass PCA Directory census identified 4,403 consumers and 5,106 PCA’s on the Directory website. Currently, 952 job postings are listed.

Updates to the website include enhancements to the Directory including expanded search filters and training videos of Directory features, in addition to adding worker and job numbers to searches, reference fields and reminders of interview dates.

Chris Hoeh and MassHealth staff are working with Publishing to update PCA content on the MassHealth webpage.

B. MassHealth Report

Jarred Damico reported that a letter will be sent to consumers regarding upcoming changes to the current prior authorization process for the COVID overtime policy. The letter will focus on the post-COVID prior authorization process for consumers receiving 50+ service hours per week. This informational letter will provide an overview of policy chances and encourage feed-back and comments from consumers prior to implementation. Consumers may also contact PCM Agency skills trainers for assistance with overtime requests.

C. EVV Implementation

The EVV Advisory Group will review feed-back from stakeholders. The announcement of the selected F.I. agency will take place on April 1st. Public listening sessions are being held by MassHealth and will include Spanish language participation. The go-live date will be January 2022 and will include a phased roll-out.

With no other agenda items for discussion, Lauren thanked participants and ended the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Byrd