

July 24, 2015

Message from the Secretary

On Wednesday, the Pennsylvania Departments of Human Services and Aging announced the next steps toward Governor Wolf's plan to improve care coordination and to move to Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS). Following the June, 2015 release of a MLTSS Discussion Document, Secretary Dallas and I, along with Health Secretary Karen Murphy and senior staff from the Office of Long Term Living, traveled the commonwealth and met with scores of stakeholders who shared their comments, concerns and suggestions. The response to the public comment period was tremendous and demonstrated the critical need for stakeholder input. The feedback received led our departments to formulate key next steps, which were shared during a webinar that was led by DHS/OLTL Deputy Secretary, Jen Burnett. This is an exciting time in aging and disability services as together we pursue person-centered initiatives that will result in a more strategic care delivery system and improved health outcomes for older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities. To that end in case you were not able to participate in the webinar, the presentation can be reviewed [here](#).

On Thursday, I was honored to spend the day with Senator Sean Wiley, who represents Erie and the entire 49th legislative district, and serves on the Senate Aging and Youth Committee. During our time together, we met with several physicians from UPMC Hamot, including Dr. Fred Mirarchi, who discussed and shared with us the importance of and concerns for the tools we use for individualized life care planning, such as advanced directives, living wills and physician orders for life-sustaining treatment. We also met with Senator Wiley's Senior Care Senatorial Advisory Committee, which is one of eighteen advisory committees convened by the Senator to advise him on legislative matters and community needs. The women and men who gathered with us were dedicated professionals, incredibly insightful and deeply committed to serving those entrusted to their care along with those responsible to render care, such as family and provider-based caregivers. Our dialogue was informative and important as together we advocate for services and programs that ensure older adults who call Erie "home" can age in place with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Finally, we visited and toured LIFE Northwest PA. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, our visit to LIFE NWPA afforded us the opportunity to recognize the impact these revolutionary federal programs have made as they provide scores of Americans with improved access to quality and affordable health care coverage. Moreover, they highlight our nation's core values that call us to care for one another. These are the same values embraced and carried out daily in the 28 LIFE centers throughout the Commonwealth;



and most assuredly, these values are demonstrated daily by the amazing staff at LIFE NWPA. It was a privilege to meet with the LIFE NWPA participants, many of whom shared personal words of wisdom and profound appreciation for the program and its staff. It was a tremendous day... a tip of the hat to all who worked so hard to make our Erie visit so successful.

Teresa Osborne
Secretary

Legislative Update

The week Governor Wolf named Mary Isenhour as Chief of Staff replacing Katie McGinty who has resigned to possibly explore another role in public service. As a result of the changes Will Danowski has been appointed as the Secretary of Legislative Affairs. To learn more, [click here](#).

House & Senate Action

On Wednesday the House passed the following bills:

HB 1210 By Rep. Deasy. This bill amends the Older Adults Protective Services Act (OAPSA) further providing for the definition of exploitation to include someone acting under a power of attorney. The bill passed by a vote of 175-0

HB 271 By Rep. Topper. Amends the Telemarketer Registration Act further providing for unwanted telephone solicitation calls prohibited. This bill was amended to add language stating the Attorney General "shall establish ongoing communications with the Department of Aging in order to ensure consumers have information regarding the prevention of potential patterns of financial exploitation". The bill passed by a vote of 176-0.

Both bills will now go the Senate and will most likely be assigned to the Senate Aging and Youth Committee for consideration.

The Senate is currently in recess unless until September 21st unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore. The House plans to return on Tuesday August 25th unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House. Due to the current budget impasse this schedule may change.

Pending, New & Approved Legislation

New Legislation: **HB 1460**, (By Rep. Bill Adolph) This state budget proposal is the same as HB 1192, the original budget proposal for the 15-16 state fiscal year which was vetoed. The House has moved this bill from the House Appropriations Committee to the House Floor as it will be helpful to have a bill in place to amend once a budget is agreed to by all parties.

Personnel Update

Nicholas McMaster is starting on 7/27/15 as a Budget Analyst in the Procurement Division, Bureau of Finance. Nicholas can be reached at 717-772-0202, nmcmaster@pa.gov.

Education and Outreach Office

PrimeTime Health

The PrimeTime Health program focuses on health promotion and disease prevention activities for older Pennsylvanians with a special focus on health risk screening, nutrition, chronic conditions, fall risk, exercise, and strengthening to prevent fall-related injury, monitoring behavioral health, and managing medications. To view upcoming programs offered through your local Area Agency on Aging, [click here](#).

PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources

Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming County

Event: PA LINK Collaborative Partner Meeting

Description: What is "Family Group Decision Making" and How can it be used in Person Centered Planning?

Location: Misericordia University
Mercy Center Nursing Unit
301 Lake Street, Dallas

Date: Tuesday, August 18th

Time: 9:00 registration and breakfast
9:30 - 11:30, speaker and updates

Contact: Dawn Edwards
E-mail - adrc@aginglw.org
Phone - 570-371-7540

Registration Deadline: 8/13

Cumberland County

Event: Cross Training on Adult Protective Services

Description: This session will provide information on protective services that are available to assist vulnerable adults who are 18 to 59 years old. The presenter for this session will be Sheila Caperelli, Adult Protective Services Regional Manager for Liberty Health.

Location: United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County, 145 S. Hanover St., Carlisle, PA

Date: Friday, July 31, 2015

Time: 9:30 to 11:00 AM

Contact: E-mail – thelink@ccpa.net
Phone – 717-240-7887

In the News

[State Secretary of Aging visits Erie](#)
[ErieTVNews.com](#)

[Next steps announced in Governor Wolf's managed long-term services and supports plan](#)
[Press Release](#)

[Pennsylvanians reminded to follow important safety tips during summer heat waves](#)
[Departments of Health and Aging press release](#)

** If you have something you wish to include, please contact us. Kindly direct your comments and suggestions to Drew Wilburne in the Press Office drwilburne@pa.gov.