

**HOME HEALTH, HOME SERVICES AND HOME NURSING ADVISORY
BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES**

July 9, 2008 – 11:00 A.M.

VIDEOCONFERENCE

160 N LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois
535 W Jefferson, Springfield, Illinois

Members Present:

Teresa Garcia, Co-Chairperson
Mary Fullmer
Steve Chastain
Sheila McMackin
Antoniette Hardy-Waller
Michael Melinger
Angus Mandrgoc
Patricia Menoni
Donna McNally

Department Staff:

Bill Bell
Aida Trinidad
Karen Senger
Siji Varghese
Maurice McAllister

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. Committee members, guests and department staff were asked to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board members were asked to review the draft minutes from February 20, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

OLD BUSINESS:

STATUS OF LICENSING RULES

Licensing rules were approved June 5, 2008 and were published June 20, 2008.

SUPERVISING NURSE REQUIREMENT

The IHCC brought this issue up during its last meeting May 2008 relative to the shortage of nurses within the State of Illinois. The home health licensing rules requires three leadership positions; an Administrator who oversees the operations of the agency, the Director of Nursing who oversees the clinical programs of the agency and Supervising Nurse who supervises the clinical staff or nursing services. The department has been very accommodating with smaller agencies by allowing them to only have two positions within an agency. They have allowed the Administrator to fill a dual roll as Administrator and Agency Supervisor. However, larger agencies must have a separate

person to fill each roll within the agency. The Supervising Nurse is just one more position in the Medicare rules that limits larger agency's organizational structure. A recommendation was made to IHCC to eliminate the Supervising Nurse position and beef up the requirements for the Administrator and the Agency Supervising Nurse within the Act. Rebecca Zuber put together some draft language and the IHCC during the meeting in May 2008 agrees that this should be something that should be recommended to the Department.

The questions that we have found problematic are located in Section 245.30 e)B)C) which states "B) A registered nurse who: i) Has completed a baccalaureate degree program approved by the National League of Nursing; and ii) Has at least one year of nursing experience; C) A registered nurse who does not have a baccalaureate degree, but who has at least three years of nursing experience that meets the following requirements: i) At least two years of the nursing experience must have been in: a home health agency; a community health program that included care of the sick; or a generalized family-centered nursing program in a community health agency. "

The Department is not opposed to making the changes recommended by IHCC, but further clarification and research would be necessary to determine what services, issues or programs would be directly affected with the change, Mr. Bell would look further in this issue and vote on it during the next advisory meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

OASIS UPDATES

The OASIS system is converting from dial-up to broadband. The conversion was tentatively scheduled to be in place and operational by September 1, 2008, but due to connectivity issues with Home Health agencies and AT&T Global Client the date for the conversion have been pushed back.

The department received 70 new home health applications since Jan 2008; twenty six have been reviewed and approved. There are 702 home health agencies across the State of Illinois, 194 are licensed (awaiting certification) and 508 are licensed and certified.

The healthcare worker background check have gone through the first notice and sitting at legal for review and then they will be sent for 2nd notice.

Also, the Bylaws will be addressed during the next meeting. Mr. Bell is on the agenda with legal to discuss the Bylaws for this board.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.