

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PEIA, SENIORS AND LONG TERM CARE

INTERIM REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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Introduction

During the 2012-2013 interim period, the Select Committee on PEIA, Seniors and Long Term Care was assigned the following topics:

Study opportunities for cooperation with community health centers to improve care of seniors and reduce medical costs and hospitalizations

Study recent changes to the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) financial plan for Plan Year 2014

Guest Speakers

During the May interim meeting, the committee discussed proposed study resolutions. Charles Roskovensky, committee counsel, discussed community health centers and services they offer that may improve care of seniors and reduce medical expense and hospitalizations. Jennifer McPherson, committee analyst, discussed concerns with changes to the Public Employees Insurance Agency financial plan and affordability of coverage for retirees.

In June, Pat Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Health Care Association presented to the committee regarding the changing nature of nursing homes and challenges nursing homes in our state are facing. Nancy Cipoletti, Director, Alzheimer's Programs, Bureau of Senior Services, discussed Alzheimer's Programs offered through the Bureau of Senior Services. Jane Marks, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, West Virginia Chapter, discussed initiatives of the Alzheimer's Association.

During the July interim meeting, Louise Reese, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Primary Care Association, and Dr. Robert Walker, Medical Director of the West Virginia Family Health Plan, presented to the committee regarding Provider Sponsored Network (PSN) legislation and the state Medicaid plan amendment. Lieutenant Donald Frye, Director of the WV State Police Crimes Against Children Unit, discussed the Silver Alert Program. Also appearing before the committee in July were Phil Schenk, Director of the West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living (WVPEL), and Renate Pore, Health Policy Analyst for the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. They discussed the WVPEL's report, "The State of Older Adults in West Virginia: Economic Security and the Over 65 Population."

During the August interim meeting, Ted Cheatham, Director of the Public Employees Insurance Agency, discussed the Post-July 1, 2010 Employee Trust Fund and prescription coverage for specialty drugs.

Dr. Steven Cody, President, West Virginia Psychological Association, presented to the committee in September regarding "Alzheimer's Disease: Care, Cost, and Consequences in West Virginia."

In October, Ted Cheatham, Director of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency, provided an overview of the proposed PEIA financial plan for Plan Year 2014.

Robert Roswall, Commissioner of the Bureau of Senior Services, discussed in-home care options for seniors at the committee's November meeting. The committee also received an update from Chris Hedges, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, on the work of the West Virginia Financial Exploitation Task Force.

Several individuals presented to the committee in December. Daniel Caldwell, Research Analyst for the Performance Evaluation and Research Division, summarized the County Aging Providers Survey Results. Justin Southern, Communications Director for the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, provided an overview of the Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation (EIFFE) Prevention Program. Phil Schenk, Director of the West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living, updated the committee on in-home direct care worker curriculum and training. Charles Roskovensky, committee counsel, discussed draft legislation regarding clarification of limitations for nursing home actions in the Medical Professional Liability Act and draft legislation regarding clarification of criminal background check requirements within the in-home care worker registry. Jennifer McPherson, committee analyst, presented a draft of the committee's Interim Report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance. Ted Cheatham, Director of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency, also appeared before the committee to answer questions.

In January, Mark Drennan, Executive Director of the West Virginia Behavioral Health Care Providers Association, and representatives of MorphoTrust and the West Virginia State Police, presented to the committee regarding the criminal background check process. Charles Roskovensky, committee counsel, presented draft legislation regarding clarification of limitations for nursing home actions in the Medical Professional

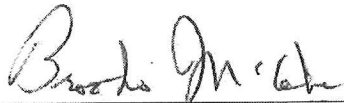
Liability Act and draft legislation regarding clarification of criminal background check requirements within the in-home care worker registry.

Conclusions

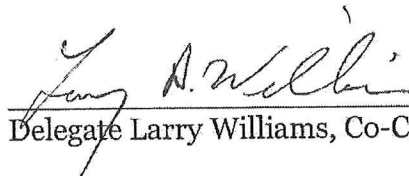
The committee requested additional information from several of the presenters and all handouts and information contained in the minutes for the meetings are on file in the office of the Select Committee on PEIA, Seniors and Long Term Care. The committee will continue to monitor changes to the PEIA Financial Plan and monitor legislation regarding in-home care programs and workforce development.

The committee recommends that the West Virginia Legislature adopt legislation to clarify the limitations for nursing home actions in the Medical Professional Liability Act and legislation to clarify criminal background check requirements within the in-home care worker registry.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Brooks McCabe, Co-Chair



Delegate Larry Williams, Co-Chair