

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Oversight Working Group (NHALOWG)

Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Funding Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

8:30am Via Zoom

Rep. Steinberg called the meeting to order and asked members to provide a brief introduction of themselves. He announced that the subcommittee will meet at 8:30 A.M. every Wednesday for the next six weeks.

Members present included: Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, OPM Deputy Secretary Kostas Diamantis, Sue Eccleston, Michael Gilbert, Christopher Carter, Charles Du, Mag Morelli, Rep. Anne Hughes, Matt Barrett and Sen. Paul Formica.

Scope of Work Discussion:

Rep. Steinberg provided an overview of the goals of the subcommittee and listed the following as issues and topics for consideration:

- Physical plant: issues related to the age, condition, and capacity of existing facilities; the risks relating from failure to renovate/update
- Layout: suitability of existing configurations to meet COVID and long-term needs based on current and optimal occupancy; issues of room layout and occupancy, ingress/egress, staff spaces, negative pressure rooms
- HVAC: condition and suitability of existing systems; issues of adequate circulation, filtration, ventilation and efficiency
- Capital financing: solvency of existing facilities; issues of deferred maintenance/upgrades; capital requirements vs. funding sources; differences between for-profit and not-for-profit facilities

Discussion:

Mag Morelli suggested adding internet capability and ITS upgrades to bullet #1.

Rep. Hughes suggested adding backup generators to bullet #3.

Charles Du asked the group to consider investing additional money into the system to help homes that are struggling financially.

Matt Barrett referenced OLR Report 2003-R-0617: [Nursing Home Fire Sprinklers Required](#). He suggested that a similar approach would provide nursing homes access to financial resources.

Deputy Secretary Diamantis expressed the importance of:

- knowing and understanding the number of facilities in consideration
- determining viability of the entities to be capitalized
- cost of HVAC systems for purchasing and installing
- inventory of existing facilities and what is needed

Rep. Steinberg suggested that Mag Morelli and/or Matt Barrett provide an overview of the current state of the industry at the next meeting. The focus should be on the number of for-profit and not-for-profit facilities and any other metrics in terms of business solvency or overall health of the facilities.

Rep. Hughes asked that the age of facilities be added to the inventory list that Mag and/or Matt will be presenting at the next meeting.

Matt Barrett suggested inviting the following groups to make presentations:

- Department of Public Health:
 - epidemiological and clinical reasons for nursing homes to move from a 2-1 in a room
 - the Life Safety Division to comment on the current status of physical plants
- Nursing home administrators to provide brief overview of the industry

Deputy Secretary Diamantis stressed the importance of knowing the current standards, what is required for some facilities to meet the current standards, and the standard of care that is needed within the facilities.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. via Zoom.