

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)  
ON SERVICES FOR AGING AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center\*

Smyrna, Delaware

April 1, 2014

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PRESENT: Mary Andersen, Patsy Bennett-Brown (Co-Chair), Ernest Cole, Carolyn Fredricks, Evelyn Hayes, Bonnie Hitch, Suzanne Howell, Katie Macklin, Martin Markiewitz, LaVaida Owens-White, Lee Perkins

EXCUSED: Bob Brown (Chair), Milton Daves, Mary Ann Miller, William Payne, Debra Veenema, Barbara Willis, Jim Young

VACANT SEATS: (1) Disabled At-Large; 2) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington; and, (3) Consumer - Disabled Kent

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Lisa Bond, Deputy Director; Cindy Mercer, Planning Supervisor; Cindi Powell, Executive Secretary

GUESTS: Karen McGloughlin, Office of Women's Health

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes: November 15, 2013
- III. Update on State Plan on Aging
- IV. ADRC Update
- V. Services Streamlining
- VI. Transit Redesign as it Relates to ParaTransit
- VII. Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Update
- VIII. Update on Alzheimer's State Plan
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Roundtable
- XII. Next Meeting: May 6, 2014
- XIII. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by P. Bennett-Brown (Co-Chair). It was noted that the March meeting was cancelled due to winter weather conditions.

II. Review of Minutes

J. Young motioned to accept the minutes; S. Howell seconded the motion.

The November minutes were accepted as written by the Council Members in attendance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Karen Lloyd.

L. Bond introduced C. Mercer, the new Planning Supervisor for DSAAPD.

### III. Update on State Plan on Aging

L. Bond distributed a copy and provided an update on the Delaware State Plan on Aging. Points of interest include:

- DSAAPD is required by the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (OAA), to develop a State Plan on Aging every two to four years. The current State Plan on Aging is for the time period beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2015.
- The State Plan on Aging Progress Report is a summary of the progress that has been made towards reaching these goals during the first year of the plan which started on October 1, 2012 and ended on September 30, 2013.
- Each goal is broken down into a simple narrative that includes Accomplishments, Next Steps and Performance Measures.
- The State Plan on Aging functions as DSAAPD's contract with the Administration on Aging (AoA). It allows the State of Delaware to receive funding under Titles III and VII of the OAA, which provides funding for important services for older Delawareans.
- A note of interest: a group called *SAGE* provided training to staff regarding the LGBT community. Led by SAGE, the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging is the country's first and only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender older adults. Established in 2010 through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging provides training, technical assistance and educational resources to aging providers, LGBT organizations and LGBT older adults. The center is led in partnership with 14 leading organizations from around the country.
- It was suggested that this information be shared with the Delaware Healthcare Commission.
- Please refer to the attached *Progress Report* for details.

### IV. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Update

L. Bond provided an update on the ADRC:

- The Division continues to receive federal funding for trainings and computer tablets for social workers due to available Year 4 and 5 grant monies.
- Development of training for the new Telehealth initiative [**Telehealth** is the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration.] It was noted that a State Plan for Telehealth is also in development.
- Delaware currently has a Telehealth pilot program for individuals with Parkinson's Disease through the University of Delaware; however, the current law requires that any participating doctor from out of state still requires that they hold a Delaware license to practice Telehealth with Delaware patients. The Department is working to modify the law so out of state doctors can participate in Delaware.
- The Division has secured some additional monies that will be used for the ADRC infrastructure aspect that focuses on client access. The ADRC was originally built with the ability to sustain the unit when the federal funding ends.

## V. Services Streamlining

L. Bond distributed a copy and provided an update on Service Consolidation. Points of interest include:

- The consolidation of personal care and housekeeping services is one of a series of projects being carried out by DSAAPD to combine similar services.
- Service consolidation projects are being done to create simplicity for clients, service vendors, and DSAAPD staff and to promote administrative efficiency. This takes place through the revision of service specifications; these specifications are a part of a provider's contract with DSAAPD.
- Contents of the current housekeeping specifications will be incorporated into the personal care specifications. The results will be a revised personal care service which will contain elements of both current and personal care and housekeeping.
- The consolidation of personal care and housekeeping will not cause a reduction in services for consumers, and will not disqualify any current service providers. The consolidation is expected to reduce time spent in service procurement and contract management processes.
- DSAAPD will provide the GAC with a copy of the letter that will be sent to clients informing them of this consolidated change.
- Please refer to the attached *Service Consolidation Report* for details.

## VI. Transit Redesign as it Relates to ParaTransit

B. Hitch reported the following:

- The transit redesign began about one year ago due to issues that ParaTransit was having with on-time performance. A copy of the plan was provided to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- The Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) and all ParaTransit fixed routes are monitored federally by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FTA since the capital money that is received is used to purchase vehicles, not for operating costs. The FTA meets with DTC on a quarterly basis.
- DTC is working to clearly identify the ADA service areas, which is everything within a three-quarter mile of the fixed route. The FTA is requesting a map that identifies these specific service areas along with a guarantee of the accuracy for number reporting purposes. The map will go into effect on July 1, 2014.
- DTC Secretary Bhatt announced that the fare will be \$3 for inside the service area, and the \$3 fee for outside of the service area will remain in effect for the next twelve months [this is an increase from \$2].
- ParaTransit service is an expensive service, which accounts for 8% of ridership but consumes 46% of the budget. This is not a sustainable budget.
- The Travel Training Program has been increased due to the introduction of a new level of service. This pilot flex program will be beginning in fall in the Georgetown/Millsboro vicinity since this is an area that has many transportation issues. The program will offer opportunities for persons with disabilities, the aging population and the general public.
- This bus will flex off up to a mile from the fixed route to pick up passengers from in front of their home; it will not be door-to-door service [along with a \$1 additional charge]. This is a same-day service. A safety team has also identified several safe areas to be used as pick up points.

- DTC staff rode fixed-route transit buses in Sussex County in order to gain a true understanding of the plights of the riders; the result is that transportation expansion is greatly needed in Sussex County.
- *DelaRide*: This is a new DTC program that will utilize private taxi services and limousine companies to provide transportation for passengers who fall under the ADA. The participating providers will have to adhere to DTC regulations for services.
- For example, a 10-mile trip will cost the consumer \$3, and there is a limit of two trips per day. The consumer will make travel arrangements directly with the provider; not through DART. It was noted that some of the providers already have handicapped accessible vehicles. This will be a requirement for providers who want to continue providing service after their first year.
- DART continues to work towards providing the best possible transportation service for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

#### VII. Joint Finance Committee (JFC)

L. Bond provided an update to the Council. The Governor's Recommended Budget did not include any additional funding for DSAAPD. However, the JFC did express an interest in providing some additional funding to address the personal attendant services waiting list.

It was also noted that the budget projections for the state are disparaging; all divisions have been placed under an intensive hiring review. In addition, any state spending of \$5,000 or higher must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

#### VIII. Update on Alzheimer's State Plan

L. Bond provided an update to the Council. The Plan has been finalized and incorporated into the Delaware State Plan on Aging, and can be located on the DSAAPD website.

#### IX. Old Business

GAC Advocacy Subcommittee: this item will be a standing agenda item.

J. Young provided an update to the Council.

- Senior Trust Fund (C. Fredrick): concerned about the future of this funding since fines are not imposed if the perpetrator accepts a plea bargain. C. Fredrick and C. Mercer will be meeting with the Department of Justice regarding this issue.
- House Bill 208 (L. Perkins): This bill assures that driver's license addresses and voter registration addresses are the same. The current status is 'out of committee'.
- House Bill 191 (C. Mercer): This bill expands the business or occupation category of permissible absentee voters to include those who are unable to appear at the polling place. The Bill is currently with the Administration Committee.
- House Bill 196 (J. Young): This bill prohibits housing discrimination based on source of income by adding "source of income" as a protected class under the Delaware Fair Housing Act and the Landlord Tenant Code. This Bill is currently in Committee for language clarification.
- Senate Bill 56 (J. Young): This Bill expands Delaware's Public Assistance Code to provide preventative and urgent dental care to all eligible Medicaid recipients. This bill is ended due to the cost and the recent Medicaid expansion resulting from the Affordable Care Act.

- D. Veenema and Kyle Hodges continue to work with B. Payne on drafting legislation to address accessible parking in the state.
- L. Perkins reported that she contacted the Department of Elections in each county and informed the Council that all polling places in Delaware are handicapped accessible.
- J. Young raised the concern regarding a survey conducted by Medicaid that 1/3 of clients under skilled nursing care are harmed in treatment. L. Bond will follow up with the Division of Long-Term Care Residents Protection on this matter.

#### X. New Business

C. Powell reported to the Council that there are four vacancies on the GAC:

1-Disable Consumer At-Large; 2-Disabled Consumer Wilmington; 3-Disable Consumer Kent County; and, 4-Aging/Public Non-Profit Sussex.

In addition, the GAC Chair and Co-Chair Elections will take place at the June meeting before the summer recess.

#### XI. Roundtable

**C. Mercer:** Expressed her thanks to the GAC for welcoming her to her first GAC meeting as the new DSAAPD Planning Supervisor.

**M. Andersen:** Congratulated the Sub-Committee on their good report.

**E. Cole:** Reported that he has been elected to the Board of the Freedom Center.

**K. Macklin:** Reported that the new Alzheimer's Association facts and figures for 2014 have been released – every 67 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer's Disease; mostly women are affected. In addition, a group of Alzheimer's Disease advocates will travel to Washington DC to ask legislators to raise awareness of Alzheimer's Disease to a national level.

**C. Fredricks:** The Modern Maturity Center will host a day of fun, living and health for the aging on May 19<sup>th</sup>. May is the month of aging awareness.

**L. Owens-White:** April 26<sup>th</sup> is Wilmington Wellness Day in Rodney Square from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm along with free entertainment and screenings.

**E. Hayes:** The Health Science Campus at the University of Delaware is now open with limited service but with a focus on seniors. There will be open houses in the spring and summer.

**P. Bennett-Brown:** April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Disability Day in Dover. In addition, a Diamond State Amputee Soccer league is being formed; please contact Patsy for details.

**B. Hitch:** Please contact Bonnie if you have any questions regarding the transit redesign.

**K. McGloughlin:** April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Autism Awareness Day – please wear blue to show your support.

**L. Perkins:** Attended the Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Press Conference at the Swank Memory Center on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, 2014** at the Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center\* in Smyrna from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

XIII. Adjournment

P. Bennett-Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

LB/cmp  
Respectfully submitted 4.24.14

**\*Health and Wellness Center (Entrance C)**

Alzheimer's Association  
Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center  
100 S. Main Street  
Suite 211  
Smyrna, DE 19977

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