

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

May 5, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room

Smyrna, Delaware

PRESENT: Mary Andersen, Bob Brown, Carolyn Fredricks, Suzanne Howell, Arlene Littleton (Co-Chair), Karen McGloughlin, LaVaida Owens-White, Bill Payne, Lelia Perkins, Jim Young

EXCUSED: Patsy Bennett-Brown (Chair), Ernest Cole, Evelyn Hayes, Bonnie Hitch, Katie Macklin, Mary Ann Miller, Jalpurnia Trader, Debra Veenema, Barbara Willis

VACANT SEATS: (1) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington; (2) Consumer Disabled - Kent; (3) Consumer Disabled-at-Large; and, (4) Disabled Public/Non-Profit At-Large

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Cindy Mercer, Planning Supervisor; Susan Bailey, Executive Secretary

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes April 14, 2015
- III. Family Caregiver Task Force Update
- IV. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Roundtable
- VIII. Next Meeting: June 2, 2015
- IX. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 am by Co-Chair A. Littleton. A discussion was held regarding the lack of ability to transport the committee chair to the meetings. Mary Andersen will contact Generations to get a cost to transport Patsy Bennett-Brown to/from meetings. Cindy Mercer will follow up with DSAAPD Fiscal staff to find out if there is any budget to pay for this.

II. Review of Minutes

In reviewing the minutes of April 14, 2015, a small change was made on Page 2, Section VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update. The dollar amount listed in the Senior Trust Fund was erroneously listed as \$200,000 – actual amount is \$20,000. The minutes were then approved with this change. A final copy will be distributed.

III. Family Caregiver Task Force

Cindy Mercer stated that all listening sessions are complete. Committee has been meeting to develop the report and will be delivered to the Governor by the end of the month.

VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

Update was handed out at the meeting and is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

- Cindy forwarded information on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Elderly and Domestic Violence subcommittee meeting announcement, who, in their mission statement,

want to expand the accompaniment, support and assistance to elderly victims of crime. Also reached out to the Delaware Center for Justice to see if they would be interested in collaboration for volunteers.

- Want to see a list of committees for the state that sponsor aging activities and how active are they.
- Hearing through the grapevine that long wait times with 211 and ADRC – possibly look at staff testing to check quality; if specific issues with ADRC, Cindy stated to contact us to follow up; 211 is not our division but can pass along information. Committee would like to see the number hits that the ADRC gets and the distribution of guides. Will bring guides to next meeting.

VIII. Old Business

- Portable medical bill going to vote today.
- Cindy Mercer will research if there is budget to pay for Patsy Bennett-Brown's transportation to meetings.
- Would like to get an update regarding Sussex County Transportation from Bonnie Hitch at May meeting. Chair person needs to get to meetings. Motion made and passed to also invite John Sisson, CEO of DART. Motion made and passed to explore and implement alternative ways for committee members to access meetings. Another motion made and passed to address the financial needs to ensure chair person can get to meetings. Will bring a listing of video-conferencing sites in Milford and New Castle County to review.
- A brief discussion on the Death with Dignity Bill was held. Committee would like details. Paul Baumbach (sponsor of bill) and Brian Hartman (resident lawyer for elderly and disabled) to discuss key issues on this.

IX. New Business

- Discussion on DelDOT draft right-of-way procedures regarding increase in pitch to 5-8% on curb and running ramps. This increase creates a balance problem with walkers and wheelchairs. The Department of Justice/Americans with Disabilities Act for Titles 2 and 3 states 2% slope currently is maximum allowed. Handicap parking will also be addressed.
- Many are having issues with dual Medicare/Medicaid coverage – some are supposed to receive both but do not. Medicaid should be handling these issues. The coordination of benefits needs to be addressed. Federal government set up specifics for dealing with dual eligibility. If there are specific cases, we need to get the information back to the state council.

X. Roundtable

KMcGloughlin – Inclusion of some element that addresses aging persons in Delaware in the overall work to work plan. DPH does have a bureau of health equity that is not fully flushed out yet. Lisa Bond will be going to a meeting on June 3 to discuss agencies and community partners coming together to make sure all populations are served, including aging.

CMercer – Alzheimer Plan Steering Committee has been working in work groups and welcomes any participation – the five groups are broken up into the five goals of the Plan. You can review the plan online and let Cindy Mercer know if interested.

BPayne – DART has dropped the ball in Sussex County for this council as well as others. Does DHSS need to look at this for all agencies? Moved and approved recommendation to have Patsy to write a letter to the Governor as well as one to Bonnie Hitch regarding specific issues and budgeting. If transportation is covered, would be easy to fill the four vacant positions in the committee.

BBrown – Thanked Arlene for building a valuable agenda.

CFredricks – Went to a conference with Medicaid Managed Care. Discussed how the adult day program is six hours and clients are only getting approved for two hours. One client had to choose between having someone come in to bathe or going to the day program. Seeing that Delaware is not the only one with these issues – all states are having them. Secretary Landgraf and division directors are part of a team about healthcare reform and how it needs to focus on outcomes – payments going towards medical care are going to be based on outcomes (keeping a person healthy), not the number of treatments. Concern is for aging people on getting what they actually need. Also learned about the future of caregiving – sat in on a documentary on Speed Dating after 70 and how it followed the participants. Brought the idea back with her to do at Modern Maturity Center. Documentary is called Age of Love – screening is open to the public – will be held on July 7 at 5 pm. A graduate student is doing similar documentation and will have people apply over 65 for speed dating on September 9.

ALittleton – Is heading to Legislative Hall after the meeting. Have many elderly in Sussex County – number is increasing but dealing with the same amount of money/budget and increasing costs. Caregivers are much stressed.

SHowell – American Council of the Blind - 70 BRL will be implemented in January 2016. Over 100 people from all over the country were on the call. Want to see this kept in the forefront.

LPerkins – When is managed care grant implemented? Still in planning stages and looks like it will still be a couple of years. This group needs to keep it in front of the public eye. Concerns about keeping it waiting until September to get implemented. Next meeting need to have a plan to keep it moving. Some of these issues have various divisions – need to keep a positive attitude about moving forward on issues. Need to think more about prevention. What is the prevention taskforce doing for middle-age people? Thinking we have done positive things today and need to keep them moving.

LOWens-White – The need for transportation is outgrowing the number of volunteers we have. We need to get more people involved in their communities. CVS is getting into more communities and there is a caregiver conference coming up. Need to set up a plan to keep shaking trees.

MAnderson – There are now four work groups in Healthgroup Management. When you don't have the money, you have to get things done through collaboration. If you look at the amount of money trying to do this and the number of people working on it – we're wasting money on fragmentation. Believes the federal government is pushing the states to make decisions. Somehow, everyone will have to look how they can work together.

JYoung – Thinking about the approach of Jill's presentation. Policy makers are totally underestimating changes that need to be made. Looking at background in change management – change is harder than expected. What does the committee need right now? Would like to hear from Jill and others on what needs done, who will do it and getting it done.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 10:00 am** at the **Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room**.

Suggestion was made to look at strategic plan for disabilities – Karen McGloughlin to bring to next meeting.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

CM/skb
Respectfully submitted 6.1.15

STATUS REPORT

Governor's Advisory Council Advocacy Subcommittee As of 5/4/15

Members

Debra Veenema (chair), Ken Bock, Carolyn Fredericks, Cindy Mercer, Katie Macklin, LaVaida Owens-White, Lee Perkins, Jim Young

Senior Trust Fund

The Attorney General's office has indicated that they grossly over-estimated the revenue to this fund because they based it on crimes and not on convictions. Unfortunately, the majority of these crimes are committed by a family member and in many cases, the victim chooses to not press charges. This means that the real estimate is about \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year in revenue, not the \$300,000 that was originally forecast.

Currently there is about \$30,000 in the fund and a FY 2016 spending plan is in development. The plan will likely focus on training for senior center staff in memory loss and early memory loss programs, similar to the one currently in operation at the Modern Maturity Center. The group is asking the Director of DSAAPD to develop the 2016 spending plan in conjunction with DE Aging Network.

The GAC Advocacy subcommittee is exploring ways we might increase revenue to the Fund. Asking for a portion of the revenue from the State Fair on Senior Day is one possibility.

Also in the exploratory phase are talks to expand an existing victims program at the DE Center for Justice that will help elderly victims to go through the court proceedings. Currently there is a fear of going to court, of going to strange places, and of facing perpetrators, especially when they are family members.

Oral Health/Dental Care

The subcommittee is working with Chris Oakes about ways our advocacy group can work with the Delaware Oral Health Coalition.

Legislation

- Restroom Access in Retail Establishments was signed into law in August 2014. We are watching how the Division of Public Health manages this with particular interest in the enforcement aspect. HB 65 related to the aforementioned restroom access law. This bill directs the Division of Public Health to develop a standard identification card and to educate the public.
- HB 64 related to end of life issues passed the House on March 31st. Forty-three states have end of life care legislation. One primary focus of this new legislation is portability – the directive travels with the person. The bill came out of committee on April 29th and is going to the Senate for a vote on May 5th.