

**ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON SERVICES FOR AGING AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL
DISABILITIES**

**May 5, 2020
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Via Zoom

Council Member	Attendance		Staff	Attendance
Ken Bock	Present		Dava Newnam	Present
Judith Chaconas	Present		Melissa Smith	Present
Carolyn Fredricks	Present		Teresa Ritter	Present
Sheila Grant	Present		Cindy Mercer	Present
Evelyn Hayes	Present		Susan Bailey	Present
Suzanne Howell	Present			
Katie Macklin	Present			
Robert Overmiller	Present			
LaVaida Owens-White	Present		Guests	From
Mary Lee Phillips	Excused		Shannon Lugo	DART
Belinda Strickland	Present			
Jacqueline Sullivan	Present			
Abraham Velez	Excused			
Maggie Webb	Unexcused			
Jack Young	Present			

VACANT SEATS: No Vacancies

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes April 7, 2020
- III. Director's Update
- IV. Advocacy Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Roundtable
- VIII. Next Meeting: June 2, 2020
- IX. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Robert Overmiller.

II. Review of Minutes April 7, 2020

Meeting minutes were approved 12-0.

III. Director's Update

Director Newnam provided the following updates:

- DSAAPD began offering additional services to help our community clients still in their homes. Provide check-in calls, where the frequency is determined by need of client. Provide grocery and pharmacy deliveries.
- Continuing home delivered meals program at 150% capacity.
- Having problems finding enough personal service aides.
- Have discontinued adult day and congregate meal programs.
- Have received \$1.2 million for meals to be used as needed – have the adaptability to move around where service is needed. All grants are open and can be used for Title III and Emergency Relief Service as eligible.
- All but one unit from GBHC has been transferred to DHCI; reminder of GBHC will be used as an alternative recovery site for state.
- Working with Governor's office to reach out to seniors with flyers. Question was raised about possibility of getting translated to braille for the blind. Also, possibility of having DVI reach out through robocalls.

IV. Advocacy Committee

Subcommittee has not met. Ken Bock has talked to DAN organizations about letter writing campaign preserving Grant-in-Aid.

V. Old Business

No update provided.

VI. New Business

Cindy Mercer provided updates:

- State Plan on Aging – delaying deadline for public comment to June; held two zoom public hearing meetings.
- DSAAPD has submitted a grant to the Oasis Institute/National Community Care Corps to create a Caregiver support network in DE. The grant would fund the creation of a volunteer corps that will conduct social and wellness activities, access to information and referral, increase social connectedness amongst caregivers, and would provide many of these activities remotely. We would utilize our existing Lifespan Respite program to provide respite during in-person activities.
- We applied for an AARP Community Challenge grant to help develop the dementia competency video we need to support our Dementia Friendly Delaware project. (This is the one Jack Young requested info about because the Senior Lawyer section of the American Bar Association may have funding to assist.)
- We are seeking a Maude's award. This is an honorarium that awards agencies \$25,000 for innovation in dementia services. We are highlighting the learning the language of dementia program at DHCI led by Melissa Winters.
- The Planning Unit recently completed an application (non-competitive) for \$300,000 to support Delaware's ADRC and No-Wrong Door System. Following a required rapid assessment, we will be improving technologies, the ADRC website and searchable database, creating an online self-referral process, boosting our state's 211 and our collaboration with 211, and improving care transitions through a collaboration with the University of Delaware's Center for Disabilities Studies.
- Currently, we are developing an application for funding for technology for facilities to obtain tablets so that residents can communicate with families and friends and

increase their social connections. This funding comes from Civil Money Penalty Funds and with it, we must purchase at least one tablet for every 7 residents of each facility. We plan to buy several iN2L systems with pre-loaded software, which will enable residents to participate in online activities that improve the lives of long-term care residents.

VII. Roundtable

- LOW - May is Trauma Awareness Month proclaimed by Gov. Jon Carney. Emphasis is on raising awareness on impact of trauma in our lives, homes, community, and state/m Child and elderly abuse are not the only areas of abuse...how we live and treat family, friends, the stranger in our midst. Another area addressing trauma lead by the Public Health Department is the Community Response Team and Faith-based Volunteer Champions.
- CF - Need to focus on mental health of clients. Had one suicide so far. Sending out other items besides meals but still need other ideas to keep them from social isolation. Missing human contact.
- CM - Also Older Americans Month-celebrating social media – theme is Make Your Mark
- JS - Working with Jewish Family Services have 24/7 hotline to deal with depression and social isolation. Also offering therapy. Nurses day on May 6. People have dropped off puzzles and books to share with those in the Villages. Also doing check-in calls.
- SG - Just had to adjust virtual lobby day – did virtually meet individually - focus on nursing homes; SNAP Program – looking at more flexibility for people to use; more funding for state & local governments; working on drug investment in vaccines and treatments. Working on voting/elections to try to get absentee ballot applications sent out.
- KB - Recognizing more the psychological need in what senior centers provide needs to be next provision. What is this going to look like once things open back up and how we are going to address how to safely open?
- JY - Still ongoing is work doing on opiate abuse as unfortunately started to rise during the crisis. Trying to find programs that will be successful during COVID.
- EH - Nurses Appreciation Week and Teachers Appreciation Week. Need to look more long-term solutions.
- KM - Holding May 19 virtual Alzheimer's Luncheon.
- BS - Fares are still suspended; Governor's mandate on face coverings questions have been received. If have medical issues that can't use masks, need to let DART know.
- RO - Sitting in meetings with small businesses and relating information to Lt. Governor on how they can meet expectations as if they can't open by mid-June they might not open at all.

VIII. Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.