

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)
ON SERVICES FOR AGING AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
September 2, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room
Smyrna, Delaware

PRESENT: Mary Lou Andersen, Patsy Bennett-Brown (Chair), Bob Brown, Ernest Cole, Carolyn Fredricks, Evelyn Hayes, Bonnie Hitch, Suzanne Howell, Arlene Littleton (Co-Chair), Katie Macklin, LaVaida Owens-White, William Payne, Debra Veenema, Jim Young

EXCUSED: Milton Daves, Mary Ann Miller, Lee Perkins, Jalpurnia Trader, Barbara Willis

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

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Jill Rogers, Division Director; Lisa Bond, Deputy Director; Barbara McCaffery, Community Services Program Administrator; Cindi Powell, Executive Secretary

GUESTS: Karen McGloughlin, Office of Women's Health

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes: May 6, 2014
- III. Welcome and Introductions to New DSAAPD Director Jill Rogers
And New Community Services Program Administrator Barbara McCaffery
- IV. GAC Chair/Co-Chair Elections
- V. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Roundtable
- IX. Next Meeting: October 7, 2014 – Tour of Star Campus, University of Delaware
- X. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by B. Brown (Chair).

II. Review of Minutes

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

III. Welcome New I. DSAAPD Director Jill Rogers and New Community Services Program Administrator Barbara McCaffery

J. Rogers and B. McCaffery introduced themselves to the GAC.

All Council Members present introduced themselves to J. Rogers and B. McCaffery and provided a brief personal background including their involvement in the GAC.

IV. GAC Chair/Co-Chair Elections

The Council thanked Bob Brown for his two-year term as Chair, and Patsy Bennett-Brown for her two-year term as Co-Chair.

P. Bennett-Brown accepted the nomination as GAC Chair, and Arlene Littleton accepted the nomination as Co-Chair. Ballots were distributed to the Council Members in attendance. All 14 GAC members in attendance cast their votes; by overwhelming majority (14-0 vote) Patsy Bennett-Brown was elected as the new Chair, and Arlene Littleton was elected as the new Co-Chair. This term will run until September 2016. Congratulations to Patsy and Arlene.

V. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

Senior Trust Fund – C. Fredricks

The expectation at the time the legislation was signed was that hundreds of thousands of dollars would be collected in fines for crimes against the elderly. Due to some gaps such as charges being dismissed in plea bargaining, victims not appearing in court due to fear of going, placing this fine last in the fine hierarchy and perpetrators not appearing for their hearings, the amount collected in the last few years has only been about \$17,000. C. Fredricks has met with some legislators about this and the subcommittee will be working to draft new legislation to address some of these problems. To help with the fear that some seniors feel about the court process we will explore the idea of a mentoring/advocacy program where volunteers could be assigned to help the victim get to the court and stay with them until the process is complete.

DART Para Transit Plan – B. Hitch

DelDOT continues to work on a DART Para Transit Transportation Plan. A public meeting was held a few weeks ago in Sussex County at which it was announced that flex service will begin in Georgetown, Seaford and Millsboro on November 10, 2014. B. Hitch reported that this service allows a rider to deviate up to one mile off of the fixed route for a cost of \$1.00 (charge is being suspended until January). The plan is to expand this service into other areas such as Milford, Middletown and Smyrna in the near future. A rider can reserve their trip up to two hours in advance.

B. Hitch also reported that DART is working on a taxi program that will be implemented statewide and will replace Para Transit for trips of 10 miles or less. This will provide one-on-one transportation services.

Legislation

At the close of the legislative session, the status of the bills the subcommittee was watching is as follows:

HB 208 related to change of address at DMV. This bill passed was signed by the Governor on May 28, 2014.

HB 191 related to absentee ballots. Out of the House Administration Committee as of April 9th.

HB 196 related to housing discrimination based on source of income. The bill is in committee but in all likelihood will not move forward due to the continuing disagreement in the language.

SB 56 related to dental coverage for individuals on Medicaid. The cost of \$6.2 million holds this bill back. A cost benefit analysis would help to illustrate the long term savings to be incurred but no one has funds to pay for that analysis.

HB 245 related to restroom access in retail establishments. Passed Senate July 1, 2014.
HB 370 related to People first language. Stricken June 24, 2014.
HCR 57 related to a caregiver task force. This bill establishes a Family Caregiving Task Force to address support for family caregivers. There will be 21 members on this task force. Lisa Bond announced that she is the chair of this task force.
Accessible Parking legislation – B. Payne announced that he is working on drafting this legislation along with Kyle Hodges of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities. They have met with Senator Deborah Hudson and she is interested in helping.

D. Veenema reported that she has recently begun attending the DART Para Transit meetings held weekly in Dover to address the proposed Transportation Plan. DART has taken a year to hold discussions with partner agencies in an effort to more smoothly craft a plan that is acceptable to the majority. The two issues discussed at the most recent meetings were a no show policy, (no shows cost DART \$2.5 million per year), and a presentation from New Jersey Transportation of their para transit program. The proposed no show policy was discussed in depth and rejected due to conflict with the Delaware Code. D. Veenema will continue to participate in these meetings and provide feedback to the group.

VI. Old Business

No *New Business* was raised at this time.

VIII. New Business

B. Payne informed the Council that the State Council on Persons with Disabilities is beginning to work on a Bill regarding handicapped parking spaces. Representative Hudson has agreed to sponsor the Bill. Talking points have been developed, and it is hopeful that a draft Bill will be ready in the near future.

IX. Roundtable

D. Veenema: The Annual MS Bike to the Bay is September 20-21, 2014.

K. Macklin: The Annual Alzheimer's Association Walks will be held on October 4th in Rehoboth, and October 18th is the Wilmington Riverfront Walk.

A. Littleton: The Annual CHEER Beach Day is September 19th at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center. The CHEER monthly newsletter will now be distributed quarterly. The Adult Day Center is going well and CHEER is looking to expand. CHEER will also be hosting the **2014 LIVE Conference: Live Safe and Secure** (sponsored by the Advisory Committee on Aging for the Sussex County Council and DSAAPD) on October 13th.

M. Anderson: Raised the concern of violence against the elderly in the City of Wilmington, and commented that she would like to see this important subject included in strategic plans developed by DHSS/DSAAPD. Raised the question of whether intercity senior centers are being canvassed in terms of the impact that violence is having on these centers. M. Anderson requested that the subject of mental health issues across state lines be addressed at an upcoming GAC meeting.

K. McGloughlin: Reported that Public Health is looking at the health impact that violence is having on the State of Delaware.

B. Brown: Requested that the Council keep diversity in mind when recruiting new members for the Council. It was noted that vacancies are listed on the minutes.

B. Payne: Requested an update for the November meeting on the status of the hospital discharge planning process.

J. Rogers: Reported that the State of Delaware is doing a lot of work around physical and behavioral health. These standards are part of the health plans sold on the Delaware marketplace. The draft standards for the 2016 plan year are currently being sent out for public comment (post-note: the notice for public comment has since closed).

E. Hayes: Noted that she is looking forward to hosting the tour of the Star Campus for the October GAC meeting.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 10:00 am** for a tour of the Star Campus, University of Delaware, South College Ave and Christiana Parkway, Newark, DE 19713

XIII. Adjournment

B. Payne motioned to adjourn; D. Veenema seconded the motion. P. Bennett-Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:10.

JR/cmp
Respectfully submitted 9.19.14