

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

Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center\*

Smyrna, Delaware

September 3, 2013

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PRESENT: Patsy Bennett-Brown (Co-Chair), Bob Brown (Chair), Carolyn Fredricks, Bonnie Hitch, Suzanne Howell, Katie Macklin, Martin Markiewitz, LaVaida Owens-White, Lee Perkins, William Payne, Debra Veenema, Jim Young

EXCUSED: Mary Andersen, Ernest Cole, Milton Daves, Evelyn Hayes, Karen Lloyd, Mary Ann Miller, Barbara Willis

VACANT SEATS: 1) Aging Public / Non-Profit Sussex; 2) Consumer - Disabled Kent; 3) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Carol Barnett, Senior Planner; Lisa Bond, Deputy Director; Cindi Powell, Administrative Specialist III

GUESTS: Debbie Gottschalk, DHSS; Karen McGloughlin, Office of Women's Health, Division of Public Health

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes: June 4, 2013
- III. Review of Legislative Process
- IV. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- V. Overview of Lifespan Respite Grant
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Roundtable
- IX. Next Meeting: October 1, 2013
- 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 June minutes were accepted as written by the Council Members in attendance.

III. Review of Legislative Process

D. Gottschalk, Chief Policy Advisor for the Office of the Secretary, provided an overview of the legislative process for DHSS. Notes of interest included:

- Viewing of the classic School House Rock video entitled *I'm Just a Bill*, which provided an entertaining way to open the subject of civics to the Council.

- Provided a review of the Delaware legislative website which can be accessed through [www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov).
- All DHSS legislation goes through the Governor, which then begins the committee sponsor process.
- The Speaker of the House assigns the bills to committees.
- Noted that the Affordable Care Act was completed on a Federal level, and the Department of Insurance will be the only department that is affected by the rule changes.
- Delaware has decided to expand Medicaid – consumers can start shopping for insurance at [www.choosehealthde.com](http://www.choosehealthde.com) in late September; Medicare/Medicaid open enrollment begins on October 1, 2013.
- Provided a review of types of bills, and which are originated from the House or the Senate.
- DHSS submits legislative issues each year to the House and Senate committees.
- D. Veenema extended an invitation to D. Gottschalk to attend a meeting of the GAC Advocacy Sub-Committee, which reviews legislative issues regarding the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- It was noted that Delaware is the only state in the country that still allows the public to sit in on general assembly sessions.

#### IV. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

D. Veenema (Sub-Committee Chair) reported the following to the Council:

- *Senate Bill 35* for Specialty Tier Prescription Drug Coverage was passed on June 26, 2013. This Bill imposes dollar limits on the prescription drug insurance practice of cost-sharing known as specialty tiers in order to protect patients from unaffordable co-insurance or co-payment fees. Patient's co-insurance or co-payment fees for specialty tier drugs will be limited to \$100 per month for up to a 30-day supply of any single specialty tier drug; and will not exceed, in the aggregate for all specialty tier covered drugs, \$200 per month per enrollee. The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2014.
- *Senate Bill 42* was passed on June 25, 2013. This bill ensures that individuals who are eligible for the Federal Medicare program due to disability are able to purchase the same Medicare supplement policies available to individuals eligible for Medicare due to age. This bill also ensures that the rates for Medicare supplement insurance purchased by persons who receive Medicare for reasons unrelated to disability are not affected by this bill.
- *Senate Bill 56* is currently out of committee. This Bill expands Delaware's Public Assistance Code to provide preventative and urgent dental care to all eligible Medicaid recipients. Payments for preventative or urgent dental care treatments shall be subject to a \$10.00 recipient co-pay and the total amount of dental care assistance provided to an eligible recipient shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per year, except that an additional \$1,500.00 may be authorized on an emergency basis for urgent dental care treatments through a review process established by the State Dental Director.
- The next Advocacy Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

#### V. Overview of the Delaware Lifespan Respite Grant

C. Barnett provided the following overview:

- Respite care programs provide relief to primary caregivers, such as family members, who give care to someone in need. Respite care can be regularly-scheduled (for example, once a week) or can be given from time to time, as needed by the caregiver.

- The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) makes available several types of respite programs in Delaware. Respite care is provided in various settings (such as in an individual's home or in a long-term care facility). The setting for a respite care program depends on the program's funding source.
- The federal government is in agreement with how DSAAPD is handling the respite grant, and the Division has been awarded grant funding for a third time (18-month of federal funding for the Delaware Lifespan Respite Program).
- Respite vouchers are issued to families through Easter Seals (\$500 voucher for one year).
- Eligibility: Delaware residents who are 60 years of age or older; persons under age 60 with dementia; or adults with physical disabilities aged 18 to 59. Some programs have medical and/or income eligibility requirements.
- Easter Seals is the only caregiver resource center in New Castle County that provides assistive technology equipment.
- In an effort to identify inexpensive ways to provide respite, a Family Voices pilot is being developed for a parent cooperative where families assist each other. This pilot program is also through Easter Seals, but applications can also be submitted through DSAAPD.

#### VI. New Business

J. Young raised the issue of what the GAC can do to help support the effort for the Affordable Care Act. L. Bond advised that enrollment begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and DSAAPD will send out a link for the Choose Health Delaware ([see link above](#)). The new Health Insurance Marketplace offers coverage to fit a consumer's budget and meet consumer needs. DSAAPD is working to arrange for a speaker on the Affordable Care Act for the next GAC.

#### VII. Roundtable

**S. Howell:** Thanked the Council for a good and informative meeting.

**C. Barnett:** An emergency preparedness event is being held on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. DEMA and FEMA are hosting the event and it's open to the public.

**P. Bennett-Brown:** Thanked the Council for a good and informative meeting. The Sussex County Advisory Committee for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities is hosting the LIVE Conference: Live Healthy...Live Active...Live at Home from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the CHEER Community Center, Sandhill Road, Georgetown. The Sussex County Council and Delaware Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) are co-sponsoring the event. There is a \$5 registration fee, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**D. Veenema:** Noted that a MS Society music extravaganza fundraiser will be held at Aqua Sol Restaurant on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The annual Bike to the Bay is scheduled for September 21-22, 2013.

**K. McGloughlin:** Noted that she recently attended a National Sexual Assault Conference, and the State of Delaware is working toward reducing sexual assault in the state. K. McGloughlin is the Public Health contact person for this issue if further information is needed.

**L. Owens-White:** Wilmington Wellness Day is scheduled for April 2014 in the City of Wilmington, and on Thursday November 14, 2013, the Mental Health Association in Delaware

will be sponsoring the 12th annual Community Mental Health Conference. The conference will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Wilmington, and will focus on the theme *Journey toward Health and Wholeness; Mind, Body, and Spirit*.

**L. Perkins:** Thanked the Council for a good and informative meeting. Noted that it is possible to freeze your credit score - security freezes are designed to prevent a credit reporting company from releasing your credit report without your consent. Also noted, she has had a good personal experience with Easter Seals when seeking technology assistance for her mother-in-law.

**L. Bond:** Noted that DSAAPD did not receive the grant for Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Program, Phase II. However, DSAAPD has applied for the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and ADRC grants. DSAAPD will arrange for a speaker on the SMP Program for a future GAC meeting.

**C. Fredricks:** The Annual Meals on Wheels Fundraiser, Denim and Diamonds, is scheduled for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village in Dover. The Modern Maturity Center (MMC) will hold its Annual Gala on October 4<sup>th</sup>. C. Fredricks reminded the Council that the MMC has meeting spaces available for conferences and meetings.

**B. Hitch:** Will not be in attendance for the October GAC meeting as she will be chairing the National Committee for Transportation for Older Adults. DART is looking a levels of service for seniors rather than using ParaTransit; this issue is also being reviewed nationally.

**K. Macklin:** A National Alzheimer's Disease Town Hall Meeting will be held at the MMC on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm. There will be a panel of experts and representatives from the State of Delaware, Federal government, and caregivers. The panel will be collecting feedback and suggestions on the National and State Plans.

#### VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 1, 2013** at the Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center\* in Smyrna from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

#### IX. Adjournment

B. Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:58 am.

BL/cmp  
Respectfully submitted 9.24.13

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

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