

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

November 3, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room
Smyrna, Delaware

PRESENT: Mary Andersen; Bonnie Hitch; Suzanne Howell; Arlene Littleton; Katie Macklin; Karen McGloughlin; LaVaida Owens-White; William Payne; Lelia Perkins; Jalpurnia Trader; Debra Veenema; Barbara Willis; James Young

EXCUSED: Bob Brown; Carolyn Fredricks; Evelyn Hayes; Mary Miller

VACANT SEATS: (1) Consumer Disabled – Wilmington; (2) Consumer Disabled – Kent; (3) Consumer Disabled – Sussex; (4) Consumer Disabled – At-Large; and, (5) Disabled Public/Non-Profit – At-Large

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

SPECIAL GUEST/SPEAKER: Rep. Paul Baumbach

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes October 6, 2015
- III. Death with Dignity Presentation – Rep. Paul Baumbach
- IV. By-Laws
- V. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Roundtable
- IX. Next Meeting: March 1, 2016
- X. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 am by Co-Chair Arlene Littleton.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting were approved.

III. Death with Dignity Presentation – Rep. Paul Baumbach

Representative Baumbach presented information on the Death with Dignity legislation he introduced. In the hearing, there were more opponents to the bill than supporters. It is currently tabled right now and looks like it won't make it through the legislative session. Predominant opponents have ethical issues with it; worried about coercion of the patient and think that it goes against the Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors.

It is designed after Oregon's law that has been in effect for 25 years. There are plenty of safeguards built in – it is all patient-driven – the patient makes all the decisions and can start and stop the process at any time. Approximately seven other states have similar laws in place. The Delaware legislation is crafted to allow for life-ending prescriptions for those terminally ill and have only six months left to live. It would be up to DHSS to set up the guidelines for the program.

Rep. Baumbach also explained the different legislations that touch on the end-of-life decisions. This was the only one dealing with death with dignity; all others were regarding life-extending. It would also make sure that life insurance policies would be mandated to payout as the cause of death would be listed as the terminal illness, and not suicide.

Health insurance and hospitals have been absent from the discussion to maintain the balance.

SB28 is sponsoring experimental drugs. Also would set up an End of Life Advisory Council (similar to Maryland's) that would have counselors go out and educate people to plan out their wishes for end of life. Delaware and Mississippi are the two lowest-rated states in end-of-life policies – both rated F. Rep. Baumbach is also asking for HCC to develop an Advisory Committee to develop end-of-life policy and what it should entail by April 2016 and hopes it to be in place by June.

IV. By-Laws

Arlene Littleton, LaVaida Owens-White, and Cindy Mercer met to discuss changes in the by-laws. Handouts of the drafted changes were given to committee members for their review. The review group found and removed a great deal of repetition. The changes can be made with 2/3 vote of the committee.

Looking at making the following changes:

- Director may designate the Deputy Director to attend in absence.
- Would like to make changes in the composition of the committee, adding caregivers and veterans.
- Have a Governance Sub-Committee to get new members.
- Remove political party.

Compared the by-laws to the Delaware Code and will take feedback from the Committee to Deb Gotschalk to develop changes in the Code.

Request to set up an additional meeting in January to discuss and vote on By-Law changes. Also want to get an update on the budget and the dates of the budget hearings.

Priority issue will be to define voting procedures; staff will research the rules and address in the by-laws.

VI. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

Minutes to be distributed separately.

VII. Old Business

Sussex Conference went well.

VIII. New Business

Nothing new to report.

IX. Roundtable

BPayne – Discussed the Governor's Executive Order 54 regarding walkability and pedestrian walkways. Also mentioned a transportation article – would like to see if we can get UD Policy Institute to come in and speak to the committee regarding this. (Nancy Fickell of ITN)

KMcGloughlin – Would like to start an ad-hoc sub-committee to promote the committee; update and use the old marketing flyer; volunteering Lee Perkins to work on the committee too. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

BWillis – Complimented staff on helping with senior citizen staff.

ALittleton – Thanked Cindy for her hard work.

MAndersen – Reminded everyone about the open enrollment for healthcare.

BHitch – Updated committee on DelDOT's focus on minority and small businesses and focusing on Hispanic transportation issues.

KMacklin – Thanked Cindy for her hard work. Reminded everyone that November is National Caregiver's Month and that the Annual Dementia Education Conference will be held in Dover on November 18.

X. Next Meeting

A request to set up a special meeting to discuss and vote on changes to the by-laws was made for January 12, 2016. It will be held at the Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room, Smyrna, DE.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm.