

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

November 5, 2014

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room

Smyrna, Delaware

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

EXCUSED: Mary Lou Andersen, Evelyn Hayes, Mary Ann Miller, Lee Perkins, Jalpurnia Trader

VACANT SEATS: (1) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington; (2) Consumer Disabled - Kent; and, (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: Lisa Bond, Deputy Director; Cindi Powell, Executive Secretary

GUESTS: Ken Bock, CHEER Deputy Director; Karen McGloughlin, Office of Women's Health

#### Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes: Tour of Star Campus (no minutes taken)
- III. Overview of Qualified Health Plan
- IV. Budget Initiatives
- V. Alzheimer's State Plan Update
- VI. DART Expansion of Services
- VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Roundtable
- XI. Next Meeting: March 3, 2015 (meeting location to be determined)
- XII. Adjourn

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by L. Bond.

#### II. Review of Minutes

No meeting minutes were taken for the October meeting. The GAC went on a tour of the Star Campus, University of Delaware. Many thanks go to GAC Member Evelyn Hayes for facilitating a wonderful and informative tour.

#### III. Overview of Qualified Health Plan

Jill Rogers was unable to attend the meeting; this item is tabled for follow-up.

#### IV. Budget Initiatives

L. Bond provided the following updates:

- The DHSS Public Budget Hearings will be held on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Legislative Hall from 1:00-4:00 pm in the Senate Chambers.
- In year's past, the Division has not sustained any large cuts and funding has remained consistent; and, last year, the DSAAPD received additional funding to address the wait list issue. In addition, all of the Divisions submitted their independent funding needs.

- This year, all of the Divisions submitted their funding needs to DHSS through specific categories in an effort to streamline needs. DSAAPD did request additional funding to address continuing wait list issues. DHSS will then submit these needs during the public budget hearings.
- Programs with a wait list are home modifications, case worker and personal care services. All clients who are on the wait list have been assigned to a provider, who is responsible for assessing the clients.

#### V. Alzheimer's State Plan Update

L. Bond provided the following updates:

- DSAAPD, the Alzheimer's Association and various agencies partnered to develop the Alzheimer's State Plan. The finished plan has been published. The Delaware State Plan on Aging was amended to include the Alzheimer's State Plan. The plan can be found on the DSAAPD website <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd>
- All of the goals and objectives were broken down into timelines over a five-year period.
- A Steering Committee has been established for oversight until 2015. The committee just had their first kick-off meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and the committee will identify persons to participate in the implementation work groups. Status updates will be provided to the GAC.
- The Task Force will be reconvened twice per year for an update on the implementation of the plan.

#### VI. DART Expansion of Services

B. Hitch reported the following:

- Beginning Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, DART will begin a new flex bus same-day service.
- Due to the rural area in Sussex county, DART has added new flex routes to provide regular accessible bus service to designated bus stops, and also provide flexibility to accommodate 'off route', curbside pick-up/drop-offs within one mile of the regular route on a space/time available basis. The off-route option is available to everyone and easy to use.
- B. Hitch provided a hand-out to the Council Members that reflected the flex route schedule for Sussex County. Flex routes operate on weekdays every 60 minutes from 6 AM – 7 PM.
- DART is continuing to consider a taxi service in the state called the DelaRide Program. This service would be limited to 10-miles on way but the fare would be the same as paratransit.
- The CHEER Center in Georgetown is requesting transportation assistance for Sussex County.
- The DART Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at Legislative Hall.

#### VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

D. Veenema reported that due to Legislative Hall being in between sessions, there was not much information to share at this time. C. Fredricks reported that the senior trust fund will not be taken off the table. Judges have been found to be removing the \$100 fine when an offender accepts a plea bargain; however, this issue is being brought to the attention of judges in hope that the fine will be reinstated after the start of a new session. It was noted that the issue of ending life with dignity could be another subject researched by the sub-committee. The next Advocacy Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at the Modern Maturity Center.

#### VIII. Old Business

No *New Business* was raised at this time.

### IX. New Business

**C. Fredricks** raised the issue of very slow reimbursement payments from United Healthcare. In addition, United Healthcare does not send notification to the Modern Maturity Center when a client has been discontinued for services. It was clearly noted that better communication needs to occur between the Modern Maturity Center and United Healthcare.

### IX. Roundtable

**L. Owens-White:** A memory screening will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Christ Our King Church.

**B. Brown:** Commented on the wonderful tour of the Star Campus in October.

**B. Hitch:** Informed the GAC that the DelDot website is being upgraded. A focus group will review the website to ensure it is working correctly.

**K. Macklin:** November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and the Annual Alzheimer's Dementia Conference is scheduled for November 19, 2014 at Dover Downs.

**K. McGloughlin:** DPH is working with other agencies to understand and grasp violence in Delaware; refer to the Division of Public Health website for further information on violence in the State of Delaware.

**C. Fredricks:** The Modern Maturity Center has expanded their memory loss program to three days per week with assistance from one-to-one volunteers. It was noted; however, that more individuals are being dropped off at the center by family members looking for adult day service. The intergenerational Christmas program will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Willis:** Volunteers through St. Vincent DePaul and noted that purple alerts have been issued by the City of Wilmington when the nighttime temperatures are below freezing. Sussex County is working to issue purple alerts. Congratulated L. Owens-White for receiving an award from the Ladies of the Knights of Columbus, St. Peter's Church, for her work in the community.

**E. Cole:** Was very impressed with the tour of the Star Campus, and also attended their Parkinson's Disease Symposium.

**D. Veenema:** The MS Society mascaeraed ball will be held at the Queen Theater on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The 36th Annual PNC Bank Thanksgiving Day Run/Walk for MS will be held in the morning of November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**S. Howell:** Noted that she privately voted on Election Day on a machine called ADAM by listening to selections and remote control in Braille.

**A. Littleton:** CHEER is opening a new senior center in Milton and the grand opening is March 1, 2015. Noted that the Mid Del Foundation is providing funding for meals to be delivered to seniors on Christmas Day.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 10:00 am**. The 2015 meeting location will be determined.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

LB/cmp  
Respectfully submitted 12.1.14