

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)
ON SERVICES FOR AGING AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center
Smyrna, Delaware
May 7, 2013-
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PRESENT: Patsy Bennett-Brown (Co-Chair), Carolyn Fredricks, Suzanne Howell, Katie Macklin, LaVaida Owens-White, Lee Perkins, Debra Veenema, Jim Young

EXCUSED: Bob Brown (Chair), Ernest Cole, Milton Daves, Evelyn Hayes, Bonnie Hitch, Karen Lloyd, Mary Ann Miller, William Payne, Linda Smith, Barbara Willis

VACANT SEATS: 1) Aging Public / Non-Profit Sussex; 2) Consumer - Disabled Kent; 3) Consumer - Disabled At-Large; and, 4) Consumer - Disabled At-Large.

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Bill Love, Director; Chris Oakes, ADRC Project Coordinator; Jill McCoy, Social Services Administrator; Cindi Powell, Administrative Specialist III

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes: April 2, 2013
- III. Update on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- IV. Older Adults Transportation (*postponed*)
- V. 2012 Key Items Overview
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Roundtable
- IX. Next Meeting: June 4, 2013
- X. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by P. Bennett-Brown, Co-Chair.

II. Review of Minutes

The April minutes were accepted as written with the below note:

J. Young: Noted that a summary of goals for the GAC, along with a status, should be sent to the legislators as a follow-up to the letter that was sent in March 2013.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by B. Payne, and seconded by Jim Young.

III. Update on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

C. Oakes and J. McCoy provided an update to the Council on the ADRC.
(Please see attached presentation for details.)

IV. Older Adults Transportation

This agenda item has been tabled for the June meeting.

V. 2012 Key Items Overview

B. Love reported the following updates to the Council:

SNAP Program: An estimated 10,000 seniors in Delaware are eligible for SNAP (formerly names the Food Stamp Program) but are not enrolled. DSAAPD is partnering with service providers to enroll more seniors in this critically needed program. The Wilmington Senior Center, the Modern Maturity Center and Jewish Family Services has outreach staff that are helping to identify eligible seniors and assist them with enrollment. DSAAPD is working with the Food Bank, and will share more information with the GAC to assist with networking.

Farmer's Market Nutrition Program: This program is federally funded; however, Delaware does not currently participate in the program. The federally funded food vouchers will be used specifically for local farmers markets for fruits and vegetables. Delaware is planning to apply for the 2014 growing season. Funding for 2014 will first go to states that are already enrolled in the program. Newly participating states, such as Delaware, will receive any remaining grant funding. DSAAPD is conducting a 2013 pilot program with the Cool Springs Farmer's Market located in Wilmington in order to gain experience with operating the program.

Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities: B. Love reported that the Care Transitions Team continues to work with referrals to our long-term care facilities to review alternative services with families. The team has diverted 92% of those referred to admission in 2013. This effort has led to a significant reduction in the census of the facilities due to the reduced number of admissions. Admittance to the facilities is limited to high-level needs and Adult Protective Services clients.

State Plan on Aging: The Delaware State Plan on Aging (2012-2015) is now implemented. DSAAPD is working with the Delaware Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to develop a Delaware State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. A task force has been organized, a draft Plan is near completion and town hall meetings will be held in June in all three counties to gather public comments. Future updates will be provided to the GAC.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement: M. Smith, Deputy Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH), previously reported to the GAC on this matter. The settlement led to a broad expansion of mental health services in the state. The Delaware Psychiatric Center (DPC) is downsizing to only acute care clients. Funding in the mental health budget will be expanded for community-based services for mental health clients. If any group(s) would like to have a speaker from DSAMH on this subject, please contact B. Love.

Brandywine Village Network: Village networks are communities that get engaged to support seniors in their communities, therefore considered a 'village'. The network also links people to services and supports in their communities, which also includes transportation and business contacts for repairs, services, etc., and access to sponsoring organizations and volunteers. Members pay a fee to join and that money is used toward the network. Recently, the founding members of the Lewes Village Network provided a presentation to the GAC about the network, which is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2013.

Reverse Mortgages: Reverse mortgage services are still being provided by *Clarify*, who presented to the GAC in 2012. B. Payne noted the unsuspecting dangers that can come with these types of programs.

PACE Program / St. Francis Life Center: The GAC toured this new facility at the Wilmington Riverfront in October 2012. This type of program is becoming very popular across the country. It was noted that St. Francis is looking to expand its PACE Program to Kent and Sussex Counties. A provider network needs to be established in each county with local hospitals.

DHSS/DSAAPD Budget: B. Love reported that the Joint Finance Committee has provided significant support for the DHSS FY2014 Budget request. Funding has been requested for Meals on Wheels and critical supports and services. DSAAPD is continuing to realign staff to address client growth. In our community-based programs, the recent Federal budget cuts impacted all Older American Act funds (5% federal funding cut) with impact expected that will include larger waiting lists for FY2014.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP): J. Aglio presented to the Council an overview of the SHIP and *Elderinfo* programs, which are under the umbrella of the Department of Insurance. These programs are federally funded and serve the elderly as well as other individuals on Medicare. *Elderinfo* provides free health insurance counseling for people with Medicare. You can call *Elderinfo* at **1-800-336-9500** or **(302) 674-7364** to set up a free counseling session with a trained volunteer at a convenient site near you. The goal is to empower people with Medicare to better understand their options and enable them to make the best health insurance decision for themselves.

TeleHealth: TeleHealth is the use of technology to access health care services. The use of telehealth in Delaware is expanding, including the use of this technology for occasional mental health services. The Mid-Atlantic TeleHealth Resource Center is assisting Delaware with expanding its use of telehealth technologies. Please contact B. Love for more information.

VI. New Business

D. Veenema suggested that a GAC Sub-Committee be formed in order to focus on new legislative initiatives, and it be deemed a routine agenda item. The Council voted unanimously on the motion of forming a Legislative Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee members are: Debra Veenema, LaVaida Owens-White, Lee Perkins, Carolyn Fredricks and Jim Young. The meetings will be held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

D. Veenema will chair the Sub-Committee, and D. Weeks-Tappan (DSAAPD Planning Supervisor) will take the lead for the Division on legislative issues affecting DHSS.

The current legislative matter for review is *Senate Bill #35*. 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.

This item is tabled for the June agenda.

VII. Roundtable

C. Fredricks: Raised the concern of transportation issues. Major changes in Kent and Sussex counties – CHEER, Kent Sussex Industries, and the Modern Maturity Center are assisting each other in order to lower transportation costs. A dialogue on this matter is ongoing. Noted that the adult day facility is full and a waiting list has been established. Also, noted that the Modern Maturity Center for the first time is providing services for a hearing-impaired client.

B. Payne: Raised the concern of the cost of fuel for transportation. Suggested considering natural gas vehicles. C. Fredricks will raise the question to B. Hitch at the June GAC.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 4, 2013** at the Julie H.C. Bailey Training Center* in Smyrna from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Please note that following the conclusion of the June meeting, the Council will be on recess for the months of July and August, and will reconvene on September 3, 2013.

IX. Adjournment

P. Bennett-Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

BL/cmp
Respectfully submitted 5.29.13

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

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