

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

June 2, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room

Smyrna, Delaware

PRESENT: Mary Anderson; Ken Bock (for Arlene Littleton); Bob Brown; Ernest Cole; Evelyn Hayes; Bonnie Hitch; Suzanne Howell; Katie Macklin; Mary Miller; LaVaida Owens-White; William Payne; Barbara Willis; James Young

EXCUSED: Patsy Bennett-Brown; Carolyn Fredricks; Arlene Littleton; Karen McGloughlin; Lelia Perkins; Jalpurnia Trader; Debra Veenema

VACANT SEATS: (1) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington; (2) Consumer Disabled - Kent; (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: Cindy Mercer, Planning Supervisor; Susan Bailey, Executive Secretary

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes May 5, 2015
- III. Family Caregiver Task Force Update (link to report:
http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/files/caregiver_support_blueprint.pdf)
- IV. Transportation Update – Bonnie Hitch
- V. Strategic Plan for Disabilities – Karen McGloughlin
- VI. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Roundtable
- X. Next Meeting: September 1, 2015
- XI. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am. As Chair and Co-Chair were not in attendance, LaVaida Owens-White chaired the meeting.

II. Review of Minutes

At the previous meeting, a question was raised on whether there was a budget for payment of transportation for council members. Cindy Mercer found no budget for payment of transportation costs (especially for \$700/meeting it would take for Patsy Bennett-Brown), but stated that if budget is needed for the committee besides transportation, staff will look into. After brief discussion, the minutes from the May 5, 2015 meeting were approved.

III. Family Caregiver Task Force

Cindy Mercer stated the final task force report was completed and distributed to the General Assembly on May 30, 2015. The link was provided to committee members as there is limited number of printed reports available. Staff will bring copies of reports to September meeting (if any remain). There were no big surprises found – information just reinforced what was already

known. The report broke recommendations out into three types: Legislative Recommendations, Budgetary Recommendations, and Policy/Program Recommendations. It shows that caregivers do save the state money and recommended that these savings should be reinvested into supporting the caregivers in all three counties. Since money is not available, can we look at how to organize things differently? The task force was looking for support for respite care, specifically off-site (adult day-care) respite care. Online assistance was generally covered in the addendum under the innovation committee. Also reaching out to employers to let them know how they can support their employees who are caregivers. Budgetary concerns about covering caregivers while they attend workshop – recommended bringing in partners to help support (donate) coverage. Suggest they work with facilities and faith-based organizations to see if they can provide it. Report is very fluid – recommendations are not set in stone. Mary Andersen requested that the Advocacy Sub-Committee review and see if additional action needs to be done on the committee's part. Jim Young volunteered to take to committee and craft a to-do list; possibly add an evaluation option to it.

IV. Transportation Update

DART's redesign plan history was discussed. There is no change to service area; only change is for non-ADA fares will go up to \$4 and ADA fares will stay at \$3 as long as the legislature doesn't change it. The past miscommunication regarding routes was clarified – ADA routes will still go door-to-door across the entire state. There is now a flex-service option down in Sussex County that deviates within a one-mile radius from the actual route for non-ADA passengers that many people are using instead of the paratransit. DART is trying to expand this program which is beginning to gain national attention. An RFP to start a taxi service went out to provide more localized service (trips within 10 miles) that will cost the same as paratransit. The Department is also looking at accessible vehicles, simplifying recertification policies and procedures, redesigning no-show policy, working on welcome packets for newly-eligible citizens, and developing in-depth material for agencies that will be distributed to the committee. Discussion was also held regarding Uber and how it works. DART does not endorse Uber.

V. Strategic Plan for Disabilities

As Karen McGloughlin was not in attendance, this subject will be scheduled for a future meeting.

VI. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

The sub-committee continues to review pending legislation. Committee will meet again on June 9 for updates.

Committee members want to hear more detail about the Death with Dignity legislation. Sue will schedule Representative Baumbach (sponsor) for future meeting to discuss.

VIII. Old Business

The committee needs to contact Patsy to find out reason for her absences as, as Bonnie reiterated, border-to-border paratransit is still in effect. The question was brought up about hosting a video conference between New Castle and Milford locations for the next meeting. Sue is to review by-laws to ensure this is allowed. This suggestion was moved, seconded and approved. September 1 meeting is set up as a pilot video conference to see how well this works and if it brings attendance up.

IX. New Business

Nothing to report.

X. Roundtable

KMacklin – June is Alzheimer and Brain Awareness Month. Ask that people wear purple. The organization does education but no longer does screenings. Alzheimer's Group continues to do screenings.

KBock – Finalizing transportation for DART for adult day care. Looking to expand program this fall – currently licensed for 20 per day. They have more on a waiting list and it continues to grow.

BBrown – Need to make sure our chair and/or co-chair are her and need to make sure all agenda items are covered by person.

BHitch – Also doing same thing for Easter Seals as Cheer. Bonnie has her business cards for those who want them for questions or other reasons to contact her.

BWillis – Flea market at St. Joseph's Church, June 6; flea market at Wilmington Senior Center on June 22; Atlantic City trip on June 18.

SHowell – Serving as Delaware Delegate at a conference in Dallas, TX on July 11. Will report on activity at September meeting.

EHayes – Concerned about leadership and substitute for agenda items.

MAndersen – Has same concerns as EHayes.

MAMiller – Golden Hour for Seniors program on Channel 28 once a month – last guest was from Elders Attorney Center regarding wills; next program will be on social security. Good feedback. Giving Congo Family recognition for sponsorship.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 10:00 am** and will be held via videoconference between Herman Holloway Campus, 1901 N duPont Highway, Main Building, CR301, New Castle, DE and Milford Walnut Street Building, DSAAPD CR (1st Floor), 18 N Walnut Street, Milford, DE.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.