

Committee on Aging

June 13, 2014

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Edgewood Vista & Edgewood Village
3124 Colorado Lane
Bismarck

Members: Gene Hysjulien, Dallas Knudson, Betty Keegan, Marsha Lembke, Delores Rath, Merry Green, Bonnie Bieber, Ray Siver.

Ex-Officio: Jan Engan-Aging Services Division, Sheryl Pfliger-Aging Services Division.

Guests: Maggie Anderson-Executive Director, ND Department of Human Services; Mathew Schwarz; Katie Schafer-RASPA Region VII; Danelle Van Zinderen-RASPA Region VI.

1. Call to Order – (Gene) The CoA meeting was called to order at 10 am.
2. Welcome & Introductions – Committee members introduced themselves to the new committee member Merry Green from Granville (Region II). Jan introduced two new Regional Aging Services Program Administrators, Danelle Van Zinderen and Katie Schafer. Both have previous experience in the field of aging.
3. Jan introduced Maggie Anderson, Executive Director for the ND Department of Human Services. Maggie has been in the Executive Director position for about a year; prior to that she was the Director of Medical Services Division. Maggie provided information on the following:
 - a) Discussed mandatory reporting that became law in August 2013 and staffing/funding for adult protective services. Need to continue to strengthen relationships with the public and private sectors and secure resources to be responsive to needs.
 - b) Addressed Older Americans Act funding that was affected by Federal sequestration. Discussed services provided to seniors; reviewing senior meal utilization and meal costs for budgeting purposes; utilization of senior centers; and other service options available to seniors such as Lutheran Social Services - looking at 'service hubs' to deliver services, and Community of Care – community driven and relies on volunteers to provide services.
 - c) Discussed the need for available and affordable housing, especially in the western section of North Dakota due to the economic growth. A Housing Coalition has been meeting to address housing/needed services.
 - d) The Department of Human Services requested an interim study to review the 'landscape of long-term care services' - do we have enough capacity, are available services meeting the needs, identify gaps, are funding streams working together, are services easily accessible, etc. On July 1st a report of the study will be available for public review on the web. The State provides care in three living arrangements: basic care, assisted living, and nursing homes. In basic care, the department is the funding stream for room and board. The Department of Health licenses basic care facilities and nursing homes. The Department of Human Services licenses assisted living facilities, but the licensing does not provide the same protection that a nursing home license endorsement does. There is conversation addressing the appropriate placement of licensure, crossing over to appropriate level of care.
 - e) The Department of Human Services is in the process of building the budget for the 2015-17 biennium. The directive from the Governor is a 'hold-even' budget. "Time is of the essence" if additional information is to be considered for the budget.

Matt Schwartz provided information on new Medicare rules. Jan will contact David Zimmerman, Department of Insurance, to talk with committee about the changes, CMS settlement, etc.

4. Budget Report – (Jan Engan)
 - Reviewed the committee budget report. Remaining budget balance as of 6/10/2014 is \$13,984.93 (budget runs through 6/30/15).
 - Committee Brochure – Need to update the committee brochure due to name change to the Committee on Aging. Also need to have the name badges and photo ID's redone.
 - Northern Plains Conference – Mary G. made a motion to sponsor a booth at the Northern Plains Conference for \$1000 dollars contingent on including the registration fee for one participant; Delores seconded; motion carried. Danelle Van Zinderen will carry the information back to the conference committee and verify there will not be an additional registration fee for participation at the conference.
5. Membership/Appointments (Jan Engan)
 - Still need committee members in Region 1 - Williston and Trenton Indian Service Area; Three Affiliated Tribes; and Region 5 (Fargo area) - consider rural representation.
 - All necessary committee reappointments have been made.
6. Aging Services Division Report (Jan Engan)
 - Federal Updates – Older Americans Act funds were not restored to the pre-sequestration levels. There has been no action on reauthorization of the Older Americans Act or on the Elder Justice Act.
 - State Updates - Considering submitting a request for additional funding for Vulnerable Adult Protective Services for additional staff and funding for contracts. Also considering request for additional funds for health maintenance as a portion of the federal funding (\$98,000) previously used must now be used for an evidenced-based program.

Committee on Aging members discussed 'taking on the issue' of adult protective services. Discussion centered around creating a 'big picture' of the need in the simplest format possible - create a diagram that shows the law, number of people impacted, staff and money required to address adult protective services. The information would in turn be conveyed to the Governor, legislators, etc. to inform and obtain support. Gene, Betty, and Marsha will work together on a committee. Jan will forward statistical data, etc.

7. State Plan on Aging (Sheryl Pfliger & Jan Engan)

The committee reviewed a draft of the ND State Plan on Aging for Federal Fiscal Years 2015 – 2018. The plan provides direction for continued development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community based services that enable older individuals and adults with physical disabilities to remain safe, active and healthy in their own homes and communities. These are four focus areas the document addresses: 1) Older Americans Act Core Programs and other Home and Community-Based Services administered by Aging Services Division; 2) Administration for Community Living Discretionary Grants; 3) Participant-Directed/Person-Centered Planning; and 4) Elder Justice. The document must be submitted to the Administration for Community Living Regional Office in Denver by July 1st; from there it will be forwarded to Washington, D.C. for final approval by the Assistant Secretary for Aging.

Marsha made a motion to approve the ND State Plan on Aging (Draft); Bonnie seconded, motion carried.

8. Committee Goals and Objectives Review - Election of Officers: Nominating Committee – Betty and Ray are on the nominating committee and met in December 2013. The nominations for the CoA positions are: Gene-Chair, Delores-Vice Chair and Marty-Secretary. Mary made the motion to accept the three nominations, Dallas second, motioned carried.
9. Schedule Next Meeting – September 12th at Bismarck Edgewood Vista, 10 am.
10. Other Business – Call to the Public
Katie Schafer and Danelle Van Zinderen provided information from the National Center on Elder Abuse on “Protect Yourself from Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation!” Ribbons that signify Elder Abuse month were distributed to everyone. In addition, Katie handed out and reviewed a sheet detailing the ND Vulnerable Adult Protective Service Program.
11. Marsha moved to adjourn; seconded by Ray. Meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marty Heller
Committee on Aging