

COMMITTEE ON AGING (CoA) MINUTES
December 11, 2015

Committee Members Present: Gene Hysjulien, Bruce Davidson, Delores Rath, Deborah Melby, Betty Keegan, Ruth Boyer, Ed Christ, Peter Belgarde, and Elaine Keepseagle

Committee Members Not Present: Bonnie Bieber and Mary Green

Others Present: Sheryl Pfliger, Aging Services; Mary Weltz, Aging Services; Bill Lytle, South Central Human Service Center; Janis Cheney, AARP; Tyler Merkel, IPAT; Ty Hegland, HERO; Rebecca LeFavor, University of Mary; Tim Austin, Special Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Human Services; and Rachel Schauer, Medicaid Estate Recovery

Call to Order: Gene Hysjulien called the meeting to order.

Welcome & Introductions: Ed Christ was introduced as the newest member to the Committee. Ed represents Region IV (Grand Forks region). Sheryl Pfliger provided an overview of the Committee on Aging's purpose and tasks. All members introduced themselves and provided a brief history of their activities in each of their respective regions.

Sheryl made contact with staff from Trenton Indian Service Area regarding securing the name(s) of an individual to represent the area on the committee. Elaine Keepseagle will again contact a potential committee member to represent the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Aging Services Division Report: Sheryl provided the following federal and state updates:

Federal Updates:

- A bipartisan budget agreement cleared Congress and was signed by the President -
 - 1) the bill prevents any return to sequestration (across the board cuts) through 9/30/2017
 - 2) provides for \$40 billion over 2 years in new spending for non-defense discretionary programs which includes the Older Americans Act
 - 3) averts 30% of Medicare beneficiaries from a greater than 50% increase in their Part B premiums; part B premiums will increase, but not at this extreme level
 - 4) prevents an across the board cut in the Social Security Disability program
- Appropriations Committee must establish funding levels for FFY 2016; continuing resolution through 12/11/2016 – pushed to 12/16/2015.
- Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is only half done – still needs to be passed by the House of Representatives.

State Updates:

- Sheryl distributed copies of an updated listing of Committee on Aging members and the budget was distributed.
- Bill Lytle was hired as the Regional Aging Services Program Administrator in the Jamestown region on October 19, 2015.
- Sandra Brandvold was hired as the Local Ombudsman in the Devils Lake region.

All regional positions are filled!

- Handout of 2013-2015 Budget provided: Expended a total of \$13,662.31, leaving a balance of \$6,337.69; budget for 2015-2017 is \$20,000.
- Aging Services Division has provided testimony at the interim Human Service Committee on the family caregiver program and other services provided by the Department.

Janis Cheney shared information on the Statewide Aging Collaborative. The group is developing value statements on issues of interest to all members and continues to discuss effective ways to impact legislation affecting older adults. A copy of the membership list is attached.

Ty Hegland, Director of the Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization (HERO) provided an overview of the program. Hero collects and redistributes donated healthcare supplies to those in need. All viable excess medical supplies and equipment are handled in an environmentally safe manner promoting recycling through redistribution. Currently there are locations in Fargo and Moorhead. The program is looking to expand to other locations in ND. HERO's supplies have reached every continent (except Antarctica) to help those in need.

Tim Austin, Special Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Human Services and Rachel Schauer provided information on Medicaid Estate Recovery. See attached information.

Committee on Aging Rules of Order: Committee members reviewed/discussed the proposed changes to the Committee on Aging Rules of Order that were sent with the September meeting minutes/December agenda. Delores moved and Bruce seconded to approve the changes. Motion carried.

Meeting Dates/Locations for 2016: Discussion was held regarding holding Committee on Aging meetings at different locations throughout the state so that individuals from other regions of the state would have more of an opportunity to participate. The main reason the Bismarck location was chosen was that many of the speakers/presenters are from the Bismarck area. Gene reported that Edgewood Vista and Village would continue to be available to host the committee meetings. A decision was made to continue to hold meetings in Bismarck and use an alternate location if the speaker or an agenda item dictated meeting elsewhere.

A listing of potential speakers/presentations will be sent to committee members to prioritize topics that are of interest. Committee members are asked to add to the list and bring to the next meeting. (List is attached).

The following meeting dates were selected for 2016: March 11; June 10; September 9; and December 9.

Call to the Public: Becky LaFavor, a University of Mary graduate student in the Nurse Administrator program will participate in Committee on Aging meetings on a regular basis. Becky has a wealth of knowledge in the field of nursing and other areas and is willing to share via presentations.

Motion by Bruce to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Delores; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Pfliger, Acting Director
Mary Weltz, Program Administrator, Family Caregiver Support Program
Aging Services Division