

## COMMITTEE ON AGING (CoA) MINUTES

March 11, 2016

Committee Members Present: Gene Hysjulien, Bruce Davidson, Delores Rath, Deborah Melby, Betty Keegan, Ruth Boyer, Ed Christ, Mary Green, Elaine Keepseagle, and Madonna White Bear Azure

Committee Members Not Present: Bonnie Bieber and Peter Belgarde

Others Present: Sheryl Pfliger, Aging Services Division; Erica Cermak, Alzheimer's Association, Josh Askvig and Beau Cummings, AARP; Rebecca LaFavor, Edgewood Vista & Edgewood Village

**Call to Order:** Gene Hysjulien, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Madonna was introduced as the newest member to the CoA. Madonna represents the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation. Sheryl provided an overview of the CoA's purpose and tasks. All members introduced themselves and provided a brief history of their activities in each of their respective regions. A listing of CoA members was distributed.

### **Aging Services Division (ASD) Report:**

Discussion was held regarding the State's mandatory allotment. The major program areas administered by ASD that received the allotment include Vulnerable Adult Protective Services, Dementia Care Services Program, and the CoA.

The CoA received an allotment of \$16,264. Based on the adjusted budget and expenditures to date, the remaining balance is \$40.79 (copy of budget/expenditures distributed).

Future expenses for the CoA will come out ASD's budget. A discussion on future meetings included the following:

- No budget for travel/per diem (on-site meeting costs approximately \$1200-\$1500 per meeting; would be higher if Edgewood was not providing breaks and noon meals at no cost to the CoA)
- Consider polycom – there are locations at various sites throughout the state, but would still involve travel for CoA members
- Consider conference calls – dial in on toll-free line; cost would be approximately \$200/call
- Rather than quarterly, reduce number of calls (consider calls in December 2016 and April 2017)

Betty and Elaine indicated that most of the business on boards/groups on which they serve is conducted by conference call.

Options such as 'freeconferencecalls.com' and 'GoToMeeting.com' were discussed as other possible options. Sheryl will check with the Department to determine if these might be viable options to pursue.

A motion was made by Delores and seconded by Betty that if meetings could be conducted via conference call or web-based at no charge, that the CoA meet quarterly as scheduled; if a cost is involved, the CoA would reduce meetings (via conference call) to December 2016 and April 2017). Motion carried.

Discussion regarding CoA's educational forums included the following:

- Policy change that coffee and soft drinks for any group meetings are no longer allowed
- Can forums continue if they can be conducted at no cost

Past educational forums usually had a centralized theme with each region adding sessions of particular interest to their respective group. All were in favor of continuing forums if there were no costs involved. Members shared various venues that may be used to continue to provide forums. Delores indicated she had a forum planned for her region.

Discussion was also held regarding the CoA's continued participation in the Statewide Aging Collaborative group. Betty suggested that a CoA member from Bismarck consider taking her place. Ruth will consider this possibility.

Gene led a discussion regarding the possibility of advocating for continued funding for the CoA during the State's next budget building process. A motion was made by Delores and seconded by Bruce to have Gene prepare a letter advocating for restored funding for the next biennium. A question was raised regarding waiting until a new governor was in place. Motion was amended to send a letter during the budget building process and after a new governor is in place. Motion carried.

Gene stated that he is hopeful that members will continue to serve on the CoA. The CoA has worked hard to build representation, and activities that current members have pursued are providing positive impacts to older North Dakotans. He encouraged all members to continue meeting with individuals and groups within their respective regions.

Other State Updates:

- Amy Ingersoll-Johnson was hired as ASD's Aging & Disability Resource-LINK Coordinator
- Interviews were held for ASD's Director – no announcement to date
- ASD sponsored a Symposium on Aging on Tuesday/Wednesday in Bismarck – 125 participants; received very positive comments
- Staff provided an update on the VAPS Program at the interim Human Services Committee meeting in Jamestown on Wednesday. A copy of the testimony can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/testimony/2015-2016-interim/human-services/2016-3-9-vulnerable-adult-protective-services.pdf>

Federal Update:

- No activity on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act; remains in Committee on the House side

**Committee on Aging Rules of Order:** Gene and Delores signed the revised and approved Committee on Aging Rules of Order. A signed copy of the document will be sent to all CoA members.

**Topics for Future Meetings:** A listing of potential speakers/presentations was sent to CoA members to prioritize topics that are of interest. The top four choices were: Department of Insurance – Medicare changes; Impact of the Oil Boom on Older Adults; Housing Update/Affordable Housing; and tied, Long-Term Care Payments for Nursing Facilities and Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Update. Potential speakers will be contacted regarding doing a presentation at the next meeting.

**Marsy's Law:** Marsha Lembke, State Director for Marsy's Law provided information on Marsy's Law. The United States Constitution protects the rights of accused and convicted criminals, but not the rights of the victims and their families. Their group is petitioning to have an initiated measure that would add a new section to the North Dakota Constitution to provide a number of rights for victims of crimes in this state in a manner no less vigorous than protections afforded to criminal defendants. For additional information, contact Marsha at 701.222.8628.

**Forensic Nursing:** Rebecca LaFavor provided an overview of sexual assault in North Dakota and her work as a forensic nurse. A forensic nurse since 2002, she has conducted over 200 exams and has testified four times in court. Rebecca shared information on the specialized training needed to become a forensic nurse, and the advocacy needed to get community-based response protocols and funding for training additional forensic nurses. Sexual assault is never the fault of the victim, regardless of the circumstances. Medical personnel and law enforcement play a crucial role in the victim's eventual recovery as they are in a unique position to offer immediate support and help in the victim's re-empowerment process. She emphasized the need for trauma informed care. In North Dakota, approximately 61% of sexual assault victims are between the ages of 0 and 24. She has worked with victims over the age of 60 and shared additional issues that may complicate their recovery.

**Call to the Public:** No comments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Pfliger