



**SUSSEX COUNTY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING / ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**  
**AGENDAS AND MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING**

**AND**

**ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

**FOR SUSSEX COUNTY**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Monday, July 18, 2011**

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, July 18, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County West Administrative Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. The following members were present:

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Ruth Beideman      | 7. Sandy Quillin (nonvoting) |
| 2. Albert Clark       | 8. Francine Shockley         |
| 3. Vance Daniels, Sr. | 9. Anna Short                |
| 4. Robert Draine      | 10. Fran Smith               |
| 5. Raymond Moore, Sr. | 11. John Williams            |
| 6. James Moseley      |                              |

Ms. Beideman advised that Sally Beaumont, Chair, would not be attending, and that she would be presiding over the meeting as Vice Chair.

Also in attendance were Patsy Bennett-Brown, President, Sussex County Amputee Support Group; Ken Bock, Deputy Director, CHEER; Janice Moseley, AARP; Linda Connors, Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH); and Chip Guy, Sussex County Chief of Public Information.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Beideman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes of May 16, 2011, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

### **Correspondence**

1. A flyer was distributed regarding the Georgetown Festival of Hope being held on Saturday, August 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Bedford Street Park, 203 North Bedford Street, Georgetown, Delaware, to benefit the homeless of Sussex County and disadvantaged Delawareans.
2. KENNETH S. BOCK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHEER, 20520 SAND HILL ROAD, GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE.  
RE: E-mail to Sally Beaumont, Advisory Committee Chair, offering assistance and comments for consideration regarding the Committee's planned effort to develop a strategic plan.
3. Mr. Moseley handed out information regarding Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ), a ministry operating out of the Seaford Presbyterian Church whose mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ through prayer and by offering support in the areas of employment, housing, transportation, home improvements, mentoring, etc.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Beideman requested that Ms. Short facilitate the discussion regarding the draft Strategic Plan for 2011-2012 presented for the Advisory Committee's review and consideration at the May 16, 2011, meeting. Ms. Short noted that the draft is a working document, and as the initial effort of the Committee is based on a two-year timeframe looking at what is possible, realistic, and measurable in a two-year period of time.

- Goal No. 1 - Conduct a survey of the elderly and disabled populations to assess the needs of these Sussex County residents

Ms. Short advised that the Sussex County Council is willing to cover postage, copying costs, etc., for the Committee to conduct a survey, but the question is

whether or not a survey is really necessary to determine the needs of the elderly and physically disabled in Sussex County. It was suggested that sufficient information is already available, and it is just a matter of the Committee tapping into current resources, i.e. University of Delaware, senior/CHEER centers, Meals on Wheels, and State Service Centers, to obtain the information. Mr. Bock also recommended a report published by the Caesar Rodney Institute entitled “The Graying of Delaware” as an excellent source for the Committee to access, as it contains senior citizen demographics throughout the State, with a detailed analysis of the senior population in Sussex County. The report is an excellent reference because it addresses young, middle-aged, and older seniors—drastically different groups with significantly different needs, desires, and wants.

It was agreed that the Advisory Committee more than likely would not learn anything new as a result of conducting a survey, as they are well aware of the issues at the forefront for many senior citizens today—transportation, housing, and healthcare. However, there is a need to reach out to the elderly and those with physical disabilities who are not in the mainstream and are unaware of the services available to them. Consideration to establishing focus groups to conduct interviews with various segments of the target population may be a better option versus conducting a survey. If done properly, a survey would take a great deal of work along with some associated cost.

Mr. Bock suggested, given time and budget constraints, that the Committee conduct a literature research using resources already available, such as the 2010 Census, Caesar Rodney Institute report, and University of Delaware College of Public Policy, and pull together a profile of the needs in Sussex County. Once the profile is developed, findings could then be verified through focus groups and talking to people specifically about what has been identified in the literature, i.e. transportation, housing, healthcare, etc. Those concepts are already quantified through the literature and other research that has taken place previously.

The question was raised if the Advisory Committee is attempting to do something that CHEER has already done. Mr. Bock advised that CHEER completes a strategic plan every five years, and he would be happy to discuss the process along with CHEER’s vision over the next five years as related to seniors in Sussex County at the Advisory Committee’s meeting in September. Tactical goals are developed from the plan, with several measurable objectives that feed the respective goals. Mr. Bock emphasized that it all starts with developing a profile of need, developing priorities, and looking at how to serve those needs. CHEER developed its strategic plan in 120 days, but it takes a commitment of time and

people focused on a plan that should be kept simple, realistic, and achievable.

Although the Committee does not have the ability to directly provide services, Mr. Bock stated that as an advisory group to the Sussex County Council they can make recommendations which the Council may accept or reject. If they are well-rounded, reasonable suggestions, they will receive consideration. With the huge influx of senior citizens migrating into the County attracted by lower taxes and an overall lower cost of living, greater levels of support are going to be needed from the County. This is a public policy issue that the Advisory Committee could work on addressing with Council.

Linda Connors stated that she met with focus groups for seniors in Sussex County last spring, and one of the biggest things that came out of the meetings was that a lot of seniors are being faced with unexpectedly raising their grandchildren and great-grandchildren and the difficulties they are experiencing. There is a great deal of frustration and trouble connecting with resources, and not receiving enough help.

Patsy Bennett-Brown suggested the Committee may want to consider obtaining space in the Convention Center at “Senior Beach Day” in Rehoboth to increase awareness of the Advisory Committee’s existence, while at the same time providing an opportunity for public input regarding the needs of the elderly and disabled in Sussex County. Mr. Bock will look into having the fee waived for the Committee to have a presence at this event.

It was the consensus of the Advisory Committee to establish a subcommittee to develop a comprehensive list of needs, prioritizing the list using literature research, focus groups, short community surveys through local ministries, nursing agencies, social workers, social service centers, etc. The subcommittee shall consist of Committee members Ruth Beideman/Sally Beaumont, Vance Daniels, and Fran Smith, as well as volunteers Patsy Bennett-Brown, Ken Bock, and Linda Connors. The subcommittee will hold their first meeting at 9:00 a.m. on September 19 in the West Complex Conference Room, just prior to the full Advisory Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Strategic Plan wording for Goal No. 1 was agreed upon as follows:

**Develop a profile of present and projected 5- and 10-year elderly and disabled population needs throughout Sussex County.**

- Goal No. 2 – Organize a County conference of advocates for the elderly and disabled populations in Sussex County

While conference planning would not take place for at least a year, it was felt that identifying advocates for the elderly and those with physical disabilities could help minimize duplication of services. It was noted that there are many small organizations doing great work, but no central network to bring them all together. Ms. Short asked for clarification as to whether the Committee's goal is to organize a conference or to develop a network of advocates.

Linda Connors stated that the Families, Individuals, and Communities Conference held annually in Georgetown may be an option for the Advisory Committee since the format is already in place. Working together they could possibly organize a conference which would specifically focus on the needs of the elderly and those with physical disabilities in Sussex County. Ms. Connors volunteered to look into this option.

Patsy Bennett-Brown also informed the Committee that there is a Sussex County networking program which meets at the Georgia House restaurant in Millsboro the first Wednesday of each month consisting of various State agencies and small organizations that get together to discuss and update everyone on their activities. They have a speaker each month, and the public is welcome to attend.

The subcommittee established for Goal No. 2 shall consist of Committee members Robert Draine and Francine Shockley, as well as volunteers Linda Connors and Patsy Bennett-Brown. This subcommittee will not meet until after the comprehensive list of needs has been established as stated in Goal No. 1.

Strategic Plan wording for Goal No. 2 was agreed upon as follows:

**Develop a leadership consortium of advocate groups for the elderly and disabled populations in Sussex County to validate needs and identify potential solutions.**

- Goal No. 3 – Develop and strengthen communications between the Committee and the elderly and disabled populations of the County and those that advocate for them

As the liaison between senior citizens and those with physical disabilities in Sussex

County and the Sussex County Council, it is the Advisory Committee's charge to communicate issues affecting these individuals to the County Council. However, the website is seldom used and means of communicating with the public have not been effective thus far. Additional electronic methods of getting information out into the community were suggested such as Facebook and Twitter, but many people do not have regular access to a computer. That being the case, a video was proposed as another option. Other ideas included an Advisory Committee quarterly newsletter and regular column or feature stories in CHEER's News & Views monthly newsletter which is circulated throughout the County.

It was decided that the subcommittee for Goal No. 3, consisting of Anna Short, Raymond Moore, and Ruth Beideman/Sally Beaumont, will decide a course of action for strengthening communications between the elderly and those with physical disabilities, the Advisory Committee, and the County Council. This subcommittee will also hold their first meeting at 9:00 a.m. on September 19 in the West Complex Conference Room, just prior to the full Advisory Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Strategic Plan wording for Goal No. 3 was agreed upon as follows:

**Develop, maintain, and strengthen effective two-way communication throughout the County between elderly and disabled service consumers, service providers, and County officials.**

Ms. Beideman thanked Ms. Short for her guidance in developing goals for the Strategic Plan process.

### **Public Comment**

Linda Connors stated that although the intent of the Advisory Committee is to be inclusive to all of Sussex County, the title is exclusive in that "Adults with Physical Disabilities" excludes those with mental health issues. Ms. Connors asked that the Committee consider changing its name by deleting the word "Physical" in the title, as there is an increasing number of seniors and physically disabled with depression, anxiety, and other cognitive impairments. It was agreed that mental health issues are certainly an identified need, but the question is if it is appropriate for this Committee and the County to address. Furthermore, changing the name of the Committee to be more inclusive would change its mandate and require formal action by the County Council. The Committee agreed to table this request until the September meeting.

### **Additional Business**

- Ms. Short distributed information published by Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, entitled “Organizing a Flu Clinic,” which includes steps to follow and questions to be answered in planning for a flu clinic. This information is especially helpful for anyone interested in organizing a flu clinic through their local church, daycare, place of employment, etc.
- Ms. Beideman advised that anyone who has received fuel assistance in the past and is in a home with no air conditioning may be eligible for a window air conditioner through First State Community Action Agency in Georgetown. Interested persons should call Helen Drayton at 856-7761 to see if they are eligible.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County West Administrative Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. Strategic Plan subcommittees for Goal No. 1 and Goal No. 3 will meet at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Draine, to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Short, Secretary  
Advisory Committee on Aging and Adults  
with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County

AS/sww