

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
AND
ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
FOR SUSSEX COUNTY

Minutes of Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2011

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, January 24, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County West Administrative Complex, Georgetown, Delaware. The meeting was called to order by Raymond Moore, Chairman, with the following members present:

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| (1) Sally Beaumont | (5) Francine Shockley |
| (2) Ruth Ann Beideman | (6) Anna Short |
| (3) Albert Clark | (7) Fran Smith |
| (4) Robert Draine | (8) John Williams |

Also in attendance were Ken Bock (Deputy Director) and Cindy Mitchell, Sussex County Senior Services, Inc./CHEER; Patsy Bennett-Brown, President of the Delaware Amputee Support Group of Sussex County; Paul Schwab, of West Fenwick; Sam Mullins, Milford Senior Center; Chip Guy, Sussex County Chief of Public Information; and Karen Lloyd, Chairperson for the Governor's Advisory Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.

Call to Order

At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Moore called the meeting to order. Mr. Moore welcomed everyone on behalf of the Committee. Members unable to attend today's meeting include Mr. Daniels (funeral), Mr. Moseley, and Ms. Quillin (Jury Duty).

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2010, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Correspondence

None

Guest Speaker

Ms. Beideman introduced today's guest speaker, Ms. Karen Lloyd, Chairperson for the Governor's Advisory Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities. Ms. Lloyd is also the current Director of the Milford Senior Center, Inc.

Although serving on the Governor's Advisory Council for a number of years, Ms. Lloyd noted that she is new to the position of Chairman. She expressed her pleasure in Sussex County having an Advisory Committee on Aging. To assist in determining the role that the County's committee could play in supporting the State Council, a teleconference had been scheduled between Ms. Lloyd and Bill Love, Director of the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD); due to illness the teleconference did not take place. Ms. Lloyd reviewed the objectives of the State's Council, which include:

- (1) To increase public understanding of and obtain public support for programs concerning the elderly and adults with physical disabilities;
- (2) To assist in the formation, functioning and cooperation of local community councils for the aging and adults with physical disabilities;
- (3) To request, assemble, and prepare recommendations for new programs and projects;
- (4) To propose study, research, and planning of projects and activities benefitting the elderly and adults with physical disabilities;
- (5) To advise on program and activity standards and to propose corrective action where standards are not met;
- (6) To initiate, advise, and develop – in cooperation with the Aging Network and Disabilities Network, and the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities – priorities, strategy, and proposed legislation benefitting the elderly and adults with physical disabilities;
- (7) To submit recommendations on Federal proposals;
- (8) To advise the Director of the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, and/or the Governor on matters it deems appropriate to assist the elderly and adults with physical disabilities;
- (9) To accept such matters pertaining to aid for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities as may be referred to by the Director, the Secretary, or the Governor for research, study, and advice; and

- (10) To support implementation of the Older Americans Act, the State Plan on Aging, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Regarding membership, the State Council's by-laws include:

- Membership on the Council is by appointment of the Governor.
- The Council consists of a maximum of 22 members, each serving a three-year term that can be renewed, with a bare majority representing one major political party. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Bobby Brown from Kent County) are chosen from the Council.
- The Chairperson has the authority to appoint standing subcommittees, as necessary.
- The Council membership shall be composed of representatives in the following areas: aging consumers, consumers with a physical disability, restricted income older persons, restricted income persons with a physical disability, minority older persons, and minority persons with a physical disability. Each Council member can be representative of more than three areas.
- Members of the Council serve without compensation, except those requesting transportation expenses.
- The Director attends all full Council meetings ex-officio. The Director may request or be invited to attend subcommittee meetings.
- There are no less than 7 regular meetings per Council year consisting of September, October, November, March, April, May and June. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, if required.

Ms. Lloyd noted that meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. at the Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room, the first Tuesday of each month that the Committee meets. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Ms. Lloyd went on to review additional information contained in State Code, as follows:

- (1) Eleven members of the Council shall be comprised of aging consumers as follows: 1 aging consumer each from New Castle County (excluding Wilmington), Kent County, Sussex County, and Wilmington, as well as 3 at-large members who may reside anywhere in the State. There shall also be 4 representatives of public and/or nonprofit agencies that serve aging consumers who may reside anywhere in the State. Eleven members shall represent adults

with physical disabilities to include: 1 consumer with physical disabilities from New Castle County (excluding Wilmington), Kent County, Sussex County, and Wilmington, as well as 3 at-large consumers with physical disabilities who may reside anywhere in the State. There will also be 4 representatives of public and/or nonprofit agencies that serve adults with physical disabilities who may reside anywhere in the State.

- (2) At least 10, but no more than 12, members of the Council shall be affiliated with 1 of the major political parties, and at least 8 – but no more than 10 – members of the Council shall be affiliated with the other major political party; provided, however, that there shall be no more than a bare majority representation of 1 major political party over the other major political party.
- (3) There shall be 2 permanent subcommittees of the Council, in addition to any other committees that are established. Representatives of adults with physical disabilities shall form 1 Subcommittee on Physical Disabilities. Representatives of the aging community shall form a Subcommittee on Aging. The subcommittees shall meet as often as deemed necessary, in addition to the monthly meetings of the full Council. All decisions made by the Council relative to policy and budget shall be made by the full Council. Staff assistance shall be given to the subcommittees, as well as to the full Council.
- (3) The Governor, when making appointments to any advisory commission, board or committee created by this chapter, which does or may have jurisdiction over or advisory status with state assisted activities for the elderly, shall appoint at least 1 senior citizen. For the purpose of this section, a senior citizen shall be a person who was 62 years of age or more on his/her last birthday.

Currently, there are two vacancies on the Governor’s Advisory Council, one for an aging consumer for New Castle County and the other for a representative of a public or nonprofit that serves adults with physical disabilities (who may reside anywhere in the State). Due to possible resignations by State Council members at any given time, Ms. Lloyd encouraged members to make application for the Council, which can be done online at http://governor.delaware.gov/board_and_commission_application-form.pdf, or by going to the State’s website – Governor’s Office (Boards and Commissions) – and printing off an application form (a form is enclosed).

Ms. Lloyd noted that current Council initiatives include:

- (1) Governor’s attendance at a Council meeting;
- (2) misuse of accessible parking placards;
- (3) need for additional curb cuts;
- (4) illegal parking within accessible parking areas/designations; and

- (5) transportation issues (Bonnie Hitch, of DART, is a member of the State Advisory Council)

Ms. Lloyd stated that one of the Council's earlier initiatives included ADRC, the statewide Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, which came online in the fall 2010. ADRC is a one-stop access point for information and services for older persons and adults with physical disabilities throughout the State. They can be reached by calling 1-800-223-9074, or by e-mail: DelawareADRC@state.de.us.

A question and answer period followed with the following information provided:

- (1) Ms. Lloyd stated that the State Council – formed as an advisory Committee to the Governor – would have the authority and input necessary to enable the Council to provide assistance to individuals who may have concerns regarding the need for additional curb cuts and that a lawsuit would not be the only course of action.

Ms. Lloyd went on to relay the State Council's desire to have an increased impact and input on issues relating to the aging and adults with physical disabilities. She noted that the attendance of Mr. Love, or DSAAPD staff members, at State Council meetings serves as a tremendous liaison between the Council and the Governor. She went on to state the benefit of Mr. Love speaking at a future County Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Beaumont expressed that it would be beneficial for the County's Committee to also develop initiatives thereby allowing the County and State to work together on issues. Ms. Beaumont stated her appreciation for Mr. Guy's and Ms. Quillin's attendance at the County Advisory meetings, which also serves as a liaison between the committee and the Sussex County Council and the State DSAAPD.

- (2) Ms. Lloyd confirmed that the Ombudsman Program was still under the scope of the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program investigates and resolves complaints made on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities (for example, nursing homes). The program also provides opportunities for friendly visitors/advocates in nursing homes.
- (3) Mr. Bock noted that he had made application online to the State Council, but had not received a response. Ms. Lloyd stated that she will look into the matter and report back to Mr. Bock.
- (4) Regarding issues of concern to the State Council, Ms. Lloyd explained that the Council will communicate their concern to the Governor's Office via letter, or by contacting the DSAAPD who will, in turn, make direct contact with the Governor's Office or send a letter from the Division.

- (5) In regard to the meetings held by the State Council, Ms. Lloyd explained that separate subcommittees meet to discuss specific issues assigned to them who then, in turn, report back to the full Council.
- (6) Ms. Lloyd confirmed that the State Council's by-laws do permit the increased input and impact that the State Advisory Council is seeking. It was noted that the County's website and press releases issued by Mr. Guy have been instrumental in improved attendance and interest in the County's Advisory Committee.

Ms. Lloyd extended an invitation to both Committee members and those in attendance to attend their next State Advisory Council meeting on March 1.

Mr. Moore thanked Ms. Lloyd for her informative presentation and taking the time to speak to the Advisory Committee.

(Note: For the Committee's convenience, a copy of the by-laws and State Code referenced by Ms. Lloyd are enclosed).

Old Business

None

New Business

Ms. Beaumont reported that an Open Door Forum (conference call) would be held on January 25, 2011, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The purpose of the open door forum is to highlight upcoming changes to the Medicare program as a result of the ACA (Affordable Care Act).

Ms. Beaumont also stated that she had received an email from a resident of South Jersey seeking assistance with accessible home repairs for her elderly parents who reside in Sussex County. Ms. Beaumont relayed that a referral was made to Easter Seals' Accessibility Department, which has a list of reputable contractors who are experienced in these types of home modifications.

Public Comment

Mr. Bock reported that the Joint Finance Committee's public hearing for the Division of Aging for the FY 2012 Budget will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2011 (2:00 p.m.), in the Senate Chamber at Legislative Hall in Dover.

Additional Business

- (1) Mr. Moore announced that an Election of Officers would be held at the March meeting and requested members to give some thought as to new officers.
- (2) Ms. Beaumont stated that she would contact Mr. Bill Love, Director of the Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, to see his availability for the March meeting.
- (3) Mr. Bock reported that as of December 2010, the Sussex County Mobility Consortium ceased to operate due to the lack of sustained ongoing funding. It was noted that CHEER does have a limited volunteer transportation program for non-emergency medical appointments, but Mr. Bock went on to state that the Consortium provided over 1,100 monthly trips.

Mr. Schwab suggested that contact be made with National Association of Retired Workers, which meets locally every month. Although members are over the age of 65, most still drive and may be interested in this type of volunteer work. Mr. Schwab will provide Mr. Bock with contact information.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County West Administrative Complex, Georgetown, Delaware.

Adjournment

At 10:38 a.m., a Motion was made by Mr. Draine, seconded by Mr. Williams, to adjourn. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Ann Beideman, Secretary
Sussex County Advisory Committee for the Aging
and Adults with Physical Disabilities

RAB/nc