SALLY BEAUMONT, CHAIRPERSON
RUTH BEIDEMAN
JAMIE MAGEE
JAMES MOSELEY
PENNY ORNDORFF
SCOTT PHILLIPS

LARRY SAVAGE
FRANCINE SHOCKLEY
ANNA SHORT
FRAN SMITH
JOHN WILLIAMS

Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2013

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, May 20, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the CHEER Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road, Georgetown, Delaware. The following members were present:

1. Sally Beaumont
2. Ruth Beideman
3. Jamie Magee
4. Penny Orndorff
5. Scott Phillips
6. Larry Savage
7. Anna Short
8. Fran Smith
9. John Williams

Also in attendance were Patsy Bennett-Brown, Amputee Support Group of Delaware; Charles "Chuck" Landry, Delaware Coalition for Injury Prevention; Doris Schonbrunner, Administrator, Heritage at Milford; Dennis Leebel, Sussex County Parkinson's Education and Support Group; Randy Nelson, CHEER; Lisa Celik, Director, Lewes Senior Center; Beth Seeds, RN, Director, Sand Hill Adult Day Program; Linda Rogers, Sussex RSVP; Chantal Willis; Glenn Brustman; and Nancy Feichtl.

Call to Order

Sally Beaumont, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Advisory Committee. It was noted that Committee member Francine Shockley would not be in attendance due to a death in the family.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Beideman, to approve the minutes of March 18, 2013, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Beideman, to approve the minutes of the Special Conference Planning meeting of April 17, 2013, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Beideman, to approve the minutes of the Special Conference Planning meeting of May 1, 2013, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Correspondence

DANIESE McMULLIN-POWELL, CHAIRPERSON, STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DOVER, DELAWARE.
RE: Copy of a letter to The Honorable Todd Lawson, County Administrator, requesting appropriate regulations and/or ordinances by April 30, 2013, which satisfy the mandates of House Bill No. 172, signed by the Governor on July 3, 2003, requiring county governments and the governments of incorporated municipalities to adopt regulations or ordinances regarding signage on parking spaces for use by persons with disabilities.

Election of Officers

Ms. Beaumont stated that according to the Committee's bylaws, "The officers of the Advisory Committee shall serve terms for two (2) years, or until their successors are elected." The last election of officers was held in March 2011. Officers consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. Ms. Beaumont requested that Mr. Williams conduct the Election of Officers.

Mr. Williams opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Magee, to nominate Sally Beaumont for the position of Chairperson. There being no further nominations, Mr. Williams declared the nominations closed, and Ms. Beaumont was approved as Chairperson for a term of two years.

Mr. Williams opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. A Motion was made by Ms. Smith to nominate Mr. Phillips, who declined the nomination. A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Smith, to nominate Ruth Beideman for the position of Vice Chairperson. There being no further nominations, Mr. Williams declared the nominations closed, and Ms. Beideman was approved as Vice Chairperson for a term of two years.

Mr. Williams opened the floor for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Advisory Committee. A Motion was made by Ms. Beideman, seconded by Ms. Orndorff, to nominate Ms. Short for the position of Secretary. There being no further nominations, Mr. Williams declared the nominations closed, and Ms. Short was approved as Secretary for a term of two years.

Before turning the gavel back to Ms. Beaumont, Mr. Williams took the opportunity to apologize for being unable to attend recent Special Conference Planning meetings of the Committee due to his work schedule at the Delaware General Assembly, and then congratulated all of the newly elected officers.

Ms. Beaumont thanked everyone for their show of support and encouraged the continuation of working together in moving the Committee forward. Members are requested to continue assisting Ms. Short as much as possible in providing ideas for guest speakers and venues for future Advisory Committee meetings.

Old Business

❖ Community Needs Assessments for Sussex County

Ms. Short presented the following PowerPoint with an "End of Term Update" on the activities of the Advisory Committee for the past two years. Reference to the Community Needs Assessments for Sussex County is included within this report.

- The Sussex County Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities is an 11-member panel established by the Sussex County Council to be an advocate for programs and policies that benefit older and disabled residents. The Committee meets every other month, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. All meetings are open to the public.

- In 2011, with the election of new officers, the group began a strategic planning process to develop focus and vision. A strategic plan was developed with a term of two years. The plan set forth three main goals to be accomplished.

Goal #1
Conduct a survey of the elderly and disabled populations to assess the needs of these Sussex County residents.

Goal #2
Organize a County conference of advocates for the elderly and disabled populations in Sussex County.

Goal #3
Develop and strengthen communications between the Committee and the elderly and disabled populations of the County and those that advocate for them.

Status Report – Goal #1

Conduct a survey of the elderly and disabled populations to assess the needs of these Sussex County residents.

Rather than conduct a survey, the group determined that current information already existed via various studies. The group determined that a review of the data was sufficient in lieu of a survey. The review of the data was presented at the March 19, 2012, meeting.

Findings - Growth Rates for Seniors

- 62% of Delaware's growth in the next decade will be attributed to seniors.
- The population of those 85+ will double by 2020, and double again by 2040.
- This population is the most in need of critical care services. Research shows that most persons 85+ are considered disabled due to dependence on some type of durable medical equipment.

Findings - Housing

- Most seniors want to remain in their homes.
- More affluent retirees locate along the coast, while long-term seniors are scattered throughout the County.
- 87% of Delaware seniors between 65 and 74 own their own homes.
- For those who do not own their own home, finding affordable housing is a challenge.

Findings - Transportation

- No public transportation.
- Everyone is not qualified to ride paratransit service.
- Taxi service is expensive and scarce.

Findings - Healthcare

- Older seniors have increased healthcare needs.
- Sussex County is considered by the Health and Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to have medical personnel shortages.
- There are lengthy waits to be seen by providers.

Findings - Accessibility

- Through our own expertise and the feedback of the elderly and disabled Sussex Countians who attend our meetings, we are also aware that accessibility is an issue.
- There are many public areas in Sussex that are not accessible.
- Many homes are not accessible.

Five major needs identified:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Healthcare
- Supportive Services to Remain at Home
- Accessibility

<u>Status Report – Goal #2</u>

Organize a County conference of advocates for the elderly and disabled populations in Sussex County.

A coalition has been formed. The group is currently planning the conference, scheduled for October 2013.

The Live Conference:
Live Healthy…
Live Active…
Live at Home!

Status Report – Goal #3

Develop and strengthen communications between the Committee and the elderly and disabled populations of the County and those that advocate for them.

The Advisory Committee has developed a distribution listing of interested organizations that totals 110 in number. These organizations receive regular communications from the Advisory Committee.

What's next?

- It is time for officer elections.
- It is time to begin strategic planning for the next two years.

Ms. Short stated the Committee has successfully achieved the goals contained in the Strategic Plan for 2011-2012, and now is the time to start planning for the next two years. An item to consider in the Committee's next Strategic Plan is the role the coalition will play with respect to moving the Advisory Committee forward, i.e. if the coalition will function as a part of the Committee or as a separate entity.

New Business

❖ **Report on Special Conference Planning Meetings of April 17, May 1, and May 15, 2013**

Ms. Beaumont reported on the Committee's Special Conference Planning meetings held on April 17, May 1, and May 15, 2013. A draft copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting of May 15 was distributed, providing a recap of the Committee's planning efforts thus far. Ms. Beaumont advised that she, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Magee attended the County Council meeting on May 7 to report on the Committee's progress in planning *The Live Conference*, and there was a general consensus that the County would be very supportive.

Following is a summary of the May 15 minutes as reviewed by Ms. Beaumont, in addition to other discussion which took place:

- Bill Love, Director, Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, is confirmed as the keynote speaker, and the State has committed to providing support for the event at the $2,500 level.

- It was decided to add assisted living to the panel in the **Live at Home** segment of the conference. Doris Schonbrunner, Administrator, Heritage at Milford, brought to the Committee's attention that the residents at Heritage consider that their home, and living at Heritage is like living in the community except residents do no housework, yard work, laundry, or cooking—some residents still have their own vehicle and come and go as they wish. Therefore, it was agreed that assisted living should be considered as another housing option for seniors.

- Mr. Phillips and Lisa Celik worked extensively to research programs that handle on-line registration for events, and it was decided to go with Eventbrite, a proven program that has been used locally in the past. Since Eventbrite provides discounts to nonprofit agencies, Ms. Beaumont will contact them to see if the Committee is eligible for discounted rates. Payment would be by credit card only. CHEER will also be contacted in regard to receiving payment from vendors.

- For-profit vendors will be charged a setup fee of $200.00, while nonprofit vendors will be charged $50.00. Advisory Committee members will receive a 50 percent discount.

- Randy Nelson presented a floor plan detailing the proposed layout of the CHEER Community Center for the conference. It is suggested that preferred providers be located inside the main room, with others situated in the hallway/lobby area. Sufficient open space will be needed to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, etc., for those with physical disabilities.

  In addition, Mr. Nelson advised that he has received positive responses from Jeffrey Fried, CEO, Beebe Medical Center, and Steven Rose, CEO, Nanticoke Health Services, in reference to participation in the CEO of Hospitals Panel. It was noted that although Atlantic General Hospital is located in Maryland, many Sussex County residents in the Millsboro/Selbyville areas are served there. After some discussion, it was agreed to invite the CEO's of Bayhealth Medical Center, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, and Atlantic General Hospital to participate in the panel as well.

- A tentative format for the conference was reviewed, and it was suggested that Volunteerism be included as part of the **Live Active** segment, with guest speaker Debbie Vandiver. Ms. Beaumont emphasized that speakers should concentrate on their program concept/services and what they can do for the elderly and those with physical disabilities.

- With transportation being a State issue and such a major concern for the elderly and those with physical disabilities, thought was given to inviting the Governor to say a few words. However, due to the fact that time limitations would prevent other elected officials from speaking as well, it was agreed that the Governor be invited with no expectation to speak.

Upon conclusion of review of the minutes of May 15, 2013, a Motion was made by Ms. Beideman, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Ms. Beaumont advised she will notify everyone when the next Special Conference Planning meeting is scheduled to firm up any further details regarding the conference.

Public Comment

Members of the audience were recognized as follows:

- Patsy Bennett-Brown stated she is President of the Sussex Chapter, Amputee Support Group of Delaware, and they meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at Easter Seals on DuPont Boulevard in Georgetown. Their mission, as stated in the pamphlets provided, "is to advocate for and encourage all people living with limb loss as they adapt to life after amputation." Ms. Brown reported that the Sussex Chapter continues to grow, providing support group meetings, peer visit support services, and amputee education materials. Additional information is available on the Delaware website at www.delamps.com.

- Nancy Feichtl discussed the idea of setting up a Senior Transportation Cooperative in Sussex County. Statistics show that the average person in Sussex County will live ten to 12 years beyond driving age. With the cooperative concept, volunteers provide transportation within ten to 15 miles of their home for seniors and those with physical disabilities to medical appointments, shopping, etc. Hubs would be set up in each area of Sussex County, for example Lewes-Rehoboth, Millsboro-Long Neck, Seaford-Laurel, and so on. Members receive "door-through-door" service whereby they are picked up and brought back to their homes in a regular car with the added benefit of having someone to chat with along the way. For every mile a volunteer drives, they bank a mile, and in many existing cooperatives most of the volunteers bank enough miles to be driven for the rest of their lives for free when they can no longer drive themselves. Friends and/or family members may also volunteer to drive in a member's name, thereby banking hours for that member's account. When seniors are no longer able to drive, they are asked to donate their vehicle as a tax write-off, but it is not required. From those donations, the coop would maintain a small fleet of maybe five cars for those who may want to volunteer, but do not wish to use their personal vehicle. Any surplus vehicles would be sold for revenue for the coop.

  On a smaller scale, coops also work with ride share programs to provide transportation to larger events such as the Film Festival. A Delaware ride share website could provide the necessary information for people to call each other and arrange for a ride to these events at no charge.

  Startup money is needed for a computer system and to hire a director to coordinate services from one central office. Ms. Feichtl noted that additional information regarding coops is available through ITN*America*, which offers consultation about setup, marketing, background checks, insurance, etc., at http://itnamerica.org.

  Ms. Beaumont invited Ms. Feichtl to be a part of *The Live Conference* on October 9 to provide further details regarding the establishment of a Senior Transportation Cooperative in

Sussex County. Ms. Feichtl stated she will be researching the concept further and will be happy to take part in the conference if the program is found to be viable.

- Charles "Chuck" Landry reported that he is working with the Delaware Coalition for Injury Prevention to try and get an idea of what is happening with fall prevention education in the State of Delaware. He is conducting a statewide scan to determine what actions need to be taken to improve fall prevention education throughout the State, and requested that the Advisory Committee participate by completing a questionnaire being distributed throughout Delaware by May 30, 2013. The Coalition hopes to secure funding from the Delaware General Assembly for further work in next year's budget.

- Dennis Leebel announced that the Parkinson's Support Group will meet June 3 in Lewes, and they are scheduled to have four guest speakers talking about aging in place.

- Beth Seeds, RN, Director, Sand Hill Adult Day Program, reported that their program is starting out small, but growing, and they are seeing very positive changes in the people that are attending. Transportation at this point is being provided by family members and/or coordination with DART paratransit service.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on July 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County West Administrative Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware.

Adjournment

A Motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Smith, to adjourn at 11:26 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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