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## **Governor's Committee on Aging**

October 29, 2009

### **Meeting Minutes**

**GCOA Attendees:** Ray Siver (Vice-Chairman), Marty Heller (Secretary), Bonnie Bieber, Bruce Davidson; Delores Rath; Pat Marmon, Larry Wagner, Dallas Knudson, Peter Belgarde

**Absent:** Betty Keegan; Frederick Baker; Patricia Walking Eagle; Shirley Blake; Elaine Keepseagle

**Presenters:** Sheryl Pfliger, Tami Wahl, Carrie Thompson Widmer

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Sheryl from state office of aging welcomed the two new members Peter Belgarde and Dallas Knudson to the GCoA committee. An updated listing of the GCoA will be mailed to each member.

### **Greeting from Governor Hoeven's office – Tami Wahl, Policy Advisor, Health and Human Services.**

Tami reviewed the highlights from the last legislative session that primarily affected seniors. The Federal share of services is decreasing and the State has to cover more of these medicate expense in the amount of 10 million dollars.

A lot of great legislation was passed during the previous legislative session as listed below:

1. Home delivered meals increased to 7 meals per week (Medicaid waiver).
2. PACE program increased from 1.4 to 7.4 million dollars (2.4 million from general fund).
3. SPED program - \$572,000 from general fund to reduce payment schedule).
4. Personal Care Services expanded to third tier - \$1 million from general fund).
5. Senior Service providers - increase of \$900,000 general funds; \$485,000 stimulus funds).
6. ADRC Funding – legislature removed from governor's recommended budget; encouraged DHS to continue to apply for grants (see additional info in minutes).

Larry thanked the Governor for all these enhancements and inquired about the Pilot project that the Governor's committee is interested in. The Pilot project would allow nursing home personnel to provide in home services to seniors especially in rural areas. The pilot project is still active (via the Olmstead Commission), but appears it will require extensive work to continue implementing it.

### **Overview of Services in Region VI – Carrie Thompson Widmer, Regional Aging Services Program Administrator**

Barnes County Palliative Care Grant through UND Rural Health- focused on chronic disease management. Goal is to reduce emergency room visits, obtain more support for those with chronic disease. Assistance with escort, information gathering and providing a "care captain" volunteer to seniors who need help in asking questions, escort to appointments, following disease protocols, and information gathering in doctor appointments. Mercy hospital providing RN follow up and support. Faith in Action providing "care captains"

Providing educational showings of the HBO Series "The Alzheimer's Project" facilitating discussion groups/ question and answer sessions following the DVD showing.

### **Report on Oakes Forum on Aging – Delores Rath and Carrie Thompson Widmer**

Session feedback was very positive- some did note they thought distance to travel was a hardship. Wondering if we can do something state wide via technology; there are pros and cons with that venue of educational presentation as well. Would like to provide educational sessions on a yearly basis. Topics covered were eye diseases, depression, and Five Wishes – thanks to Transit Providers, Oakes Senior Center and Oakes Outreach; Kathie Gemar for all of her assistance.

The forum at Oakes was a great success. We had 44 people in attendance from Oakes, Jamestown, Valley City, Wishek, Lisbon, and Lamoure. Our speakers were Dr Goeffrey Rath "Aging:Changes in Your Eyes:"; Deb Elhard Social Worker "Depression in the Elderly" and Jan Quandt, Social Worker, "Five Wishes"

The evaluations were positive and many excellent suggestions for the next forum.

### **DHS Stakeholder Meetings – Sheryl Pfliger, Assistant Director, Aging Services**

The Department of Human Services is holding Stakeholder meetings throughout the state to gather information from the clients, families, providers, and the general public. These meetings present an opportunity to provide input and give support for programs, address service provision issues, and service gaps in DHS service continuum. Input from the meetings will be used in the development of the Department's strategic plan and in budget preparations for the next biennium. Meetings have been conducted in Devils Lake, Grand Forks, and Fargo. Meetings were well attended. A summary of the input received will be posted on the Department's web site at [www.nd.gov/dhs/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/) after all meetings have been held.

#### **Stakeholder meetings are scheduled in the following cities:**

- Dickinson 11/2 at 1 pm (MT), Badlands Human Service Center
- Williston 11/3 at 10 am, Psychosocial Club
- Minot 11/4 at 9 am, North Central Human Service Center
- Bismarck 11/4 at 1:30 pm, West Central Human Service Center
- Jamestown rescheduled for 11/9 at 10:30 am, South Central Human Service Center

### **QSP Association and Website – Amy Armstrong, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, Minot State University**

Amy indicated that she would e-mail information – the information will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

### **State Plan on Aging Input Hearing – Sheryl Pfliger**

Every four years ND is required to submit a state plan on aging in order to receive funding through the Older Americans Act. Aging Services Division conducts input hearings throughout the state to gather information from older individuals, providers, advocates, and the general public about services they want and need to remain living independently in their homes and communities. Plans are underway to conduct the hearings during the month of April 2010. A total of 507 individuals attended the hearings in 2006 that were held in 13 locations throughout the state (including Indian reservations). Input documents were distributed to homebound individuals through the Older Americans Act

home delivered meals program and by county social services case managers. A total of 895 input documents were received. Aging Services Division is currently working with the Department's Research Division to develop an input document to be used in 2010; the document will be posted to the Department's website [www.nd.gov/dhs/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/) upon completion.

GCoA members were asked to attend/participate at the hearings in the region they represent. At the last hearings (2006), GCoA members were a part of the agenda, providing a few words about recent GCoA activities. Many of the GCoA members said that they could participate and cover what the committee does and what is happening in each region. It was determined that a uniform message regarding the GCoA would be drafted so that all committee members would have a consistent message; members can also give information on activities in their specific regions.

### **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) grant – Sheryl Pfliger**

The Department of Human Services applied for and was granted an award from the Administration on Aging to fund an ADRC pilot in the Bismarck region. The pilot will focus first on Burleigh County and expand over a three year period to include Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux counties if the state receives additional grant dollars. An ADRC supports efforts to develop one-stop shops or the no wrong door concept to streamline access to long-term care services and help individuals make informed decisions/choices regarding long-term care services. Sheryl reviewed the Abstract from the grant application. A copy of the Abstract along with a Fact Sheet on ADRC's will be mailed to each committee member.

### **Governor's Committee on Aging Goals for 2010**

A decision was made to table this agenda item until the next meeting. Copies of the current Committee's Work Plan (thru 7/31/2009) will be mailed to each member for review (bring to next meeting). This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

### **Set meeting dates for 2010**

The committee plans to meet primarily on Mondays, except for the first Monday of the month. The tentative quarterly meeting schedule is listed below:

- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Bismarck – Sheryl coordinate (Alternate site: Fargo - Bruce coordinate) The primary agenda is to review the existing GCoA

- work plan and work on 2010 goals; draft GCoA message for State Plan Hearings; arrangements to obtain new State ID's will be made.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 in Grand Forks – Ray coordinate (Alternate site: Bismarck - Sheryl coordinate).
  - June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Williston – Pat coordinate (Alternate site: Rugby – Dallas coordinate).
  - Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Mott – Bonnie coordinate (Alternate site: Devils Lake – Peter coordinate).
  - Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Valley City – Delores coordinate (Alternate site: Jamestown – Delores coordinate).

### **Other**

Ray mentioned that the committee's ID cards are expiring so plan to get new ones during the Bismarck GCoA meeting in December 2009.

### **Adjourn**

The conference call meeting started at 10 PM and concluded at 11:25 PM on 10/29/2009. Due to an imminent winter storm the meeting was not held at the James River Senior Center in Jamestown.

**Next Meeting: December 14, 2009 at  
the State Capitol – Sakakawea Room –  
10:00 A.M.**

**Note: Orientation for New Members  
(Dallas Knudson & Peter Belgarde) 9:00  
A.M.**