

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON AGING
MINUTES OF 19 MARCH 2010 MEETING

The Governor's Committee on Aging met at the Grand Forks Senior Center at 10:00 A.M. on 19 March 2010.

Attendance: Shirley Blake, Fargo; Betty Keegan, Rolla; Dallas Knudson, Towner; Bruce Davidson, Fargo; Dorreen Yellow Bird, New Town; Ray Siver, Grand Forks.

Attending by teleconference: Frederick Baker, Bismarck; Elaine Keepseagle, Fort Yates; Pat Marmon, Williston; Larry Wagner, Bismarck; Linda Wright, Bismarck.

Absent: Marty Heller, Beulah; Bonnie Bieber, Mott; Delores Rath, Jamestown; Pete Belgarde, St Michael; Tami Wahl, Governor's Office.

Guests: Patricia Soli, RASPA and Stacie Metelmann

The meeting was opened by Vice-Chairperson Ray Siver, and introductions of members and guests were conducted.

The message drafted at our last meeting for presentation at the State Plan on Aging Input Hearings was reviewed and approved for use. All members are encouraged to read the message to those in attendance at any meetings in their region and be prepared to respond to comments or questions concerning the committee. GCoA member's attendance at the various input hearings was confirmed.

Stacie Metelmann, from the Altru Diabetes Center, gave an outstanding presentation concerning the various phases of her contacts with seniors. She works from her office in Cavalier, and travels extensively throughout Pembina County to provide assistance and guidance to seniors in need. Foot care, blood pressure screenings, and medication set up were discussed. Her program has grown from 28 clients in 2002 to 239 in 2008. As in most senior programs, funding is a major issue. Many hours are uncompensated for the provider, and many seniors are limiting care because of financial difficulties. The Health Maintenance program is partially funded through the Older Americans Act.

Dallas Knudson reported on the National Silver-Haired Education Association Congress. She presented the top five initiatives as decided at the congress. An amber alert program for seniors and a national registry for background checks for care givers were the highest priorities.

It was decided at our last meeting that we would hold Forums on Aging each year, rather than on alternating years. A discussion ensued and the consensus was that we will continue with our schedule in 2011. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting. A planning committee for the 2011 Forums on Aging will include Larry Wagner as facilitator; Dallas Knudson, Patricia Soli and a representative from Aging Services Central Office.

We need to prepare a report to the Governor to be submitted by July. Siver, Rath and Wagner will prepare the report and present it at the next meeting.

Patricia Soli provided an update on the dementia care services program.

An election of officers was held and the results were as follows: Chairperson - Larry Wagner; Vice-Chairperson - Ray Siver; Secretary - Marty Heller; Historian - Frederick Baker.

Elaine Keepseagle and Linda Wright provided an update on the Aging conference for Tribal Elderly to be held June 2 & 3 at United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck.

Linda Wright presented an update on the Aging & Disability Resource Center being established in Burleigh County. A three year grant of approximately \$600,000 will provide funding for this pilot program. A program administrator has been hired, and later this year a lead options counselor will be hired. Siver asked that Grand Forks County be the first follow-on project if funding continues to be provided.

Our next meeting was scheduled to be held in Williston, but due to the scarcity of lodging accommodations it was decided to move the meeting to Dickinson. The meeting date is 18 June 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Ray Siver (for Marty Heller)