

Committee on Aging – Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2014
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Edgewood Vista & Edgewood Village
3124 Colorado Lane
Bismarck

Members: Gene Hysjulien, Marty Heller, Betty Keegan, Delores Rath, Merry Green, Bonnie Bieber, Ray Siver, Pete Belgarde, Marsha Lembke, Elaine Keepseagle.

Ex-Officio: Cindy Marihart, Aging Services Director; Judy Tschider, Aging Services Division; Michelle Gayette, Aging Services Division.

Guests: None.

1. Call to Order (Gene): The CoA meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.
2. Welcome & Introductions (Gene): Committee members introduced themselves to the new Aging Services Division Director Cindy Marihart.
3. Report on Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Meeting with the Governor's staff (Betty, Marsha, Gene):
 - Meeting held with the Governor's staff, Tami Wahl and Pam Sharp (Governor and Lieutenant Governor were not available). Presented the Committee report regarding vulnerable adult protective services recommending that additional fiscal resources be made available to allow for additional staffing to fully implement adult protective services statewide. Reference the "Vulnerable Adult Protection Service" Report.
4. Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Program Update (Michelle Gayette):
 - Reviewed the following handouts.
 - i. I&R Full Assessments/Investigations for regions 1-8. Currently, the number of calls is at 2,691 and might reach 3,000 by year end.
 - ii. Risk Investigations for regions 1-8. Currently, the number of calls is at 1,088.
 - iii. VAPS Statewide Allegation Types for regions 1-8. Breakout of allegation types of Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect, Other, Self-Neglect.
 - Mandatory Reporting. Discussed who is mandated to report
 - An online vulnerable adult reporting form (SFN 1607) has been developed and can be accessed on the website at www.nd.gov. In addition there is a training video. Michelle encouraged each committee member to go through the online training course.
5. Northern Plains Conference: Merry made a motion to have Delores Rath represent the Committee on Aging at the upcoming Northern Plains conference in Fargo; seconded by Marsha; motion carried.
6. Aging Services Division Report (Cindy Marihart):

Federal Update:

- **Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act:** Congress began meeting on September 8 after the August/Labor Day recess. Published reports suggest that as early as September 19, Congress will again recess until after the November election. That would be followed by a 'lame duck' session later in November and December. The immediate focus will be on

passing a Continuing Resolution (CR) for funding for Fiscal Year 2015, which begins October 1, to last at least through mid-December. This would mean programs would operate at FY 2014 levels through that time. It is unlikely that any bills other than the CR will be considered during the September session, including the Older Americans Act (OAA). It is hoped that reauthorization of the OAA may be able to proceed during the “lame duck” session.

- **2015 White House Conference on Aging:** The 2015 White House Conference on Aging, a once-a-decade event, serves as a forum to discuss aging-related policy, to influence decision-makers at the state and federal levels, and to guide the public and private sectors in contributing to the well-being of older adults. The official website for the 2015 White House Conference on Aging will be available soon.

Nora Super was named the Executive Director of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Aging leaders from across the country met in Washington and identified the following common themes:

- 1) Retirement security is a vitally important issue.** Financial security in retirement provides essential peace of mind for older Americans, but requires attention during our working lives to ensure that we are all well prepared for retirement.
- 2) Long-term services and supports remain a priority.** Older Americans overwhelmingly prefer to remain independent in the community as they age. They need supports to do so, including a caregiving network and well-supported workforce.
- 3) Healthy aging will be all the more important as baby boomers age.** As medical advances progress, the opportunities for older Americans to maintain their health and vitality should progress as well.
- 4) Seniors, particularly the oldest older Americans, can be vulnerable to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect.** The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, and we need to realize its vision of protecting seniors from scam artists and others seeking to take advantage of them.

State Update:

- The North Dakota State Plan on Aging was approved for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2018.
- Karla Backman will start her new duties as State Long-Term Care Ombudsman on September 18, 2014. Karla is familiar with Aging Services Division having worked as a vulnerable adult protective services worker in Region VII. Her current position is with Medical Services Division where she is a program administrator working with qualified service provider enrollments, denials, and terminations as well monitoring and auditing agency and individual qualified service providers.
- The revised Committee on Aging brochure was printed. Brochures will be available at the booth at the Northern Plains Conference.
- Budget Report: Reviewed the Committee on Aging budget report for quarter. Marsha made a motion to approve the September financial report; Delores seconded; motion carried. This is the 5th quarterly meeting of 8 in the current biennium. There is \$12,383.63 left in the budget as of 9/02/2014.
- Senior Centers: Good discussion was held as to why people may or may not go to senior centers and participate in activities.

7. Reporting on Graying of ND Coalition meeting (Betty): In June 2014, the Committee on Aging discussed investigating whether or not a coalition of agencies would be interested in “providing for communication and cooperation among groups working for the benefit of North Dakota’s aging population, envisioning future needs and advocating to help people live their best lives as they age.” A letter of invitation will be sent to various agencies to participate in an informational meeting to determine if there is interest in organizing as a Statewide Aging Collaborative. Betty Keegan will represent the Committee on Aging.
8. Membership/Appointments (Gene):
 - Dallas Knudson resigned from the committee due to numerous other activities and responsibilities. The Committee plans to send a thank-you letter to her for her service on the committee.
 - Committee on Aging representation from the eight regions/tribal areas:
 - i. Williston & Trenton – Vacancy for a long time
 - ii. Minot – Merry
Three Affiliated Tribes - Vacancy
 - iii. Devils Lake/Turtle Mountain/Spirit Lake – Betty/Pete
 - iv. Grand Forks – Ray
 - v. Fargo – Bruce
 - vi. Jamestown - Delores
 - vii. Bismarck & Standing Rock – Gene/Marty/ Marsha/Elaine
 - viii. Dickinson - Bonnie
9. Review of Committee Goals and Objectives as briefly detailed below:
 - Participate in quarterly meetings and encourage attendance to all meetings – ongoing.
 - Exchange ideas and information from national, state, and local levels relating to aging to improve upon the lives of North Dakotans as they age – ongoing.
 - Committee on Aging serves in an advisory capacity for the State Unit on Aging. Participates in public hearings and provides input on State Plan on Aging – ongoing.
 - Sponsor Forums/Conferences on Aging – ongoing.
 - Review and update the work plan – ongoing.
- 10. Schedule Next Meeting: Friday, November 21, 10 a.m. at Edgewood Vista, Bismarck.**
11. Other Business (Gene):
 - Call to the Public is beneficial and plan to continue to advertise meetings so the public is aware of them and encouraged to attend.
 - Some other agenda topics the committee is interested in for future meetings:
 - i. Transit.
 - ii. Housing
 - iii. Identify theft
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marty Heller
Committee on Aging

Edgewood Vista at Edgewood Village



Directions:

Going east on Century Avenue,
turn north on Illinois Drive,
quick left on North Colorado Dr.,
left on Colorado Lane.

Park near south entrance and come
into Door #1.

Address is 3124 Colorado Lane

Phone 701-751-5300

