

RUTH ANN BEIDEMAN, CHAIRPERSON
JAMIE MAGEE
PENNY ORNDORFF
CATHY PARKER
SCOTT PHILLIPS



LARRY SAVAGE
FRANCINE SHOCKLEY
FRAN SMITH
HELEN SMITH

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

***Amendment to Minutes – Page 3**

Minutes of Meeting

January 22, 2018

A joint meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities and the Conference Planning Subcommittee was held on Monday, January 22, 2018, at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. The following Advisory Committee and Conference Planning Subcommittee members were present:

Anthony DelFranco
Jamie Magee
Cathy Parker
Scott Phillips

Larry Savage
Francine Shockley
Fran Smith
Helen Smith

Call to Order

Jamie Magee, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Committee.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Helen Smith, seconded by Fran Smith, to approve the Agenda as posted. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Fran Smith, seconded by Larry Savage, to approve the Advisory Committee minutes of November 20, 2017, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

A Motion was made by Francine Shockley, seconded by Larry Savage, to approve the Conference Planning Subcommittee minutes of September 18, 2017, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.



Old Business

Scott Phillips reviewed the 2017 Conference Evaluation results, stating that most people were satisfied with the conference registration process. The conference theme, length, layout, vendors, and format were all in the 90th percentile, while lunch scored in the 86th percentile. There were comments that the hot lunch was preferred over the box lunch, but three people stated their chicken was not thoroughly cooked.

The conference speakers ranked from 92.5 percent to 97 percent satisfaction; however, two people felt that the keynote speaker, Dr. Kemp, should have been allotted more time.

Anthony DelFranco questioned a score on page three of the evaluation. The statement “I learned something new today” reflects 98 percent of the respondents in agreement, with an overall score of 94.3 percent. The statement just below that, “Overall the conference was worthwhile,” reflects the same 98 percent of respondents in agreement, but the overall score was 99.4 percent. Mr. Phillips will recalculate the figures to see which is accurate.

New Business

Should the Advisory Committee decide to move forward with a conference in 2018, Jamie Magee noted the following:

- Many people tend to leave after lunch – maybe the conference should be shortened to a half-day.
- Fall may not be the best time for a conference, as there seems to be a lot of conferences in the fall; rather, a conference in the spring should be considered.
- The conference has drawn a lot of professionals in the past, but not many seniors, yet programming for seniors is supposed to be taking place.
- In the past, the Advisory Committee has met at senior centers and other locations around the County. The Committee may want to consider presenting shorter programs that tackle smaller themes in several locations throughout the County.

The following comments were made as to the points noted and the prospect of a conference this year:

- Many conferences are a half-day now and do not extend into the afternoon.
- While everyone seemed to like the 2017 conference theme, it was very broad and not enough time was given to each speaker.

- Rather than a conference format, the Committee could have three topics per year presented at bimonthly meetings, and then repeated in different locations throughout the County.
- Plan for a conference in the spring of 2019 instead of this fall; in the meantime, the Advisory Committee could hold meetings around the County to attempt to attract more senior participation.
- Time for the audience to interact with vendors is very limited -- not sure it would be worthwhile for vendors to attend a half-day conference. Although many vendors generally end up passing out candy and pens, some feel it is worth their time and money to attend.
- Finding better ways of marketing the conference to seniors is crucial. Getting publicity out much earlier via church bulletins, local newspapers, senior center newsletters, radio and TV spots, as many places as possible where seniors would be likely to read or hear about the conference is key. Subcommittees to handle publicity, distribute fliers and posters, contact churches, etc., will be necessary, so everyone is asked to think about what they might like to do to promote this year's conference, if the Committee decides to move forward.
- A workshop regarding advance healthcare directives was suggested. The workshop could be a one-time event or conducted at two different locations in the County. Depending on the attendance and success of the workshop(s), perhaps a half-day conference in the spring of 2019 would bring out more seniors.
- A question as to whether the participant is a professional, caregiver, or interested senior was proposed to be included on future evaluation forms.

Scott Phillips advised that County Administrator Todd Lawson spoke with him about contacting Seniors Helping Seniors to address a future Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Phillips asked if speakers are to be limited to nonprofit agencies. Fran Smith stated that when she was responsible for obtaining speakers for the Advisory Committee meetings, she contacted nonprofit agencies, fire or police departments. It was noted that the Committee needs to be careful not to promote one agency over another. An example was given whereby the media was under the impression that Seniors Helping Seniors was a topic that Sussex County was promoting and they wanted additional information to do a story, not realizing it is actually a for-profit agency. Thus, it is best to focus on nonprofits.

*** Seniors Helping Seniors appeared before the Advisory Committee on November 20, 2017.**

Proposed themes for a future conference or workshop:

- **Finances - how to manage finances and make money last through retirement**

- **Losing a Spouse - pre-planning for this possibility, a theme which is thought could take an entire year with four to five workshops on different subtopics**
- **Advance Healthcare Directives**
- **Psychologist Dr. Judith Pierson was recommended as an excellent speaker who could address various topics such as grief, hoarding, etc.**

Next Conference Planning Subcommittee Meeting

The next meeting of the Conference Planning Subcommittee will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, in Georgetown. Members are asked to come prepared to discuss (1) whether there should be a Sussex C.A.R.E.S. Conference in 2018, or if it is felt that workshops scheduled throughout the County would be better attended; (2) when a conference or workshops should be held; and (3) what positions Committee members are willing to hold to make the conference or workshops a reality.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, in Georgetown.

Adjourn

A Motion was made by Fran Smith, seconded by Larry Savage, to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

**Helen Smith, Secretary
Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with
Physical Disabilities for Sussex County**