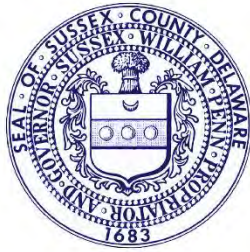


SALLY BEAUMONT, CHAIRPERSON
RUTH BEIDEMAN
GENE CAMPBELL
JAMIE MAGEE
JAMES MOSELEY
PENNY ORNDORFF



SCOTT PHILLIPS
LARRY SAVAGE
FRANCINE SHOCKLEY
ANNA SHORT
FRAN SMITH

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

Minutes of Meeting

January 26, 2015

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, January 26, 2015, at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. The following members were present:

Sally Beaumont
Ruth Beideman
Jamie Magee
Penny Orndorff
Scott Phillips

Larry Savage
Francine Shockley
Anna Short
Fran Smith

Call to Order

Sally Beaumont, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Ms. Beaumont welcomed everyone, explained the purpose of the Advisory Committee for those who may not be familiar, and asked that Committee members introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Fran Smith, seconded by Penny Orndorff, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Jamie Magee, seconded by Penny Orndorff, to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Correspondence/Other Remarks

- Ms. Beaumont reported receiving six emails advising that the addressees are no longer associated with the agencies indicated.

- Ms. Beaumont took the opportunity to commend Scott Phillips on his work in tabulating the results from the **2014 LIVE Conference** survey and requested that the results be resent to the Committee.
- Robert B. Arlett, Sussex County Councilman, 5th District, was introduced to the Committee.

Guest Speaker

Anna Short introduced Detective Matthew L. Blakeman, Troop 4 Community Outreach Officer, Delaware State Police, who was invited to speak on “*Senior Safety and the Drug Problem in Sussex.*” Detective Blakeman is presently the only Community Outreach worker in Sussex County; however, it was noted that there will eventually be nine more officers and a lieutenant based out of state police headquarters in Dover.

Detective Blakeman discussed the heroin situation in Sussex County and how this issue is relevant to seniors and persons with disabilities. Many children and grandchildren are becoming hooked on heroin which is entering the United States from Columbian cartels using established routes and distribution points. Detective Blakeman advised that the Asian heroin from the 1990’s has been replaced with South American heroin.

Heroin use is currently off the charts because it is popular, cheaper, and provides a high like no other drug. Statistics show that 80 percent of crime is related to heroin. Even though there are many risks associated with its use, such as HIV, overdose, and death, the long-term effect is that the user develops such a dependency that their primary purpose becomes to seek and consume the drug.

Signs of heroin use to watch out for include diabetes needles disappearing (as users will steal them to inject themselves); eyeglass cases containing a spoon, lighter, and needles; and small blue or white bags in the trash which would typically contain .015 grams of heroin called a ‘stamp’, costing \$8.00 to \$10.00. On the street, 10 to 14 bags of stamps are referred to as a ‘bundle’ and cost \$80.00 to \$90.00, a ‘log’ is 10 bundles of 130 bags, and a ‘brick’ is 10 logs. Withdrawal from heroin begins 24 to 48 hours after the last high and continues for approximately one week.

The elderly are especially vulnerable because heroin users will steal small items, such as televisions and jewelry, and sell to pawn shops for money to support their habit. State police work with local pawn shops and have a process in place whereby the shops will hold items for 18 days before releasing to the public. Property detectives go through lists every day in an effort to resolve cases.

Senior citizens are encouraged to ensure that their homes and vehicles are secure. Anyone living alone needs to have a safety plan in effect to protect themselves. Medications should not be left lying around, but kept in a safe location within the home, and drugs that are no longer necessary should be disposed of properly. Home invasions are not usually random in nature—99 percent of robberies are by someone who knows the house.

The importance of infrastructure keeping up with development in the County was emphasized in order to allow sufficient access during emergencies. Detective Blakeman advised that SUSCOM's non-emergency number, 302-855-2980, is available for calls that are not immediate in nature.

Other resources to assist seniors include the SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Triad) Council, which meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Heritage at Milford; bimonthly forums at the Lewes Senior Center which are open to the public and have a state police presence (encouraging residents in the Route 54 area to participate, with a goal to meet monthly); and meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian River Fire Company.

Thanks was extended to Detective Blakeman for the educational information provided in his presentation.

Public Comment

- ❖ Larry DeFrancisco, Home Instead – Retired Senior Volunteer Program will be experiencing a major change this spring in that they will become *Volunteer Delaware* for people 50 and older and will no longer be federally sponsored.
- ❖ Rob Arlett, Sussex County Councilman, 5th District – Sussex County is committed to safety and provides more than \$2 million to the state police and to augment town police forces; however, there is always room for improvement.
- ❖ Robert Corsa, Vietnam Vets of America and the Delaware Veterans Commission – These organizations are willing to help wherever needed...veterans clinic is overwhelmed...speaking from experience as a past police officer, heroin addicts will do anything for a fix.
- ❖ Ruth Beideman, Milford Senior Center – Introduced her intern for the spring, Maritza
- ❖ Anthony DelFranco – representing CHEER
- ❖ Doris Schonbrunner, Heritage at Milford – They now offer pet therapy and will be starting AKC training classes soon.
- ❖ Linda Forte, Easter Seals – Many happenings at Easter Seals, and they administer to all ages.

New Business

- The Advisory Committee is cosponsoring the Fearless Caregiver Conference, a national program, on May 5, 2015. Gary Barg, author of *The Fearless Caregiver*, is the conference speaker. The conference will include information on how to manage/live life when taking care of a loved one. Visit www.fearlesscaregiver.com for additional information.

The Advisory Committee will be seeking caregivers from Sussex County to participate on a panel at the conference. Anyone interested in serving on the panel or taking part as a vendor should contact Anthony DelFranco.

- Sally Beaumont inquired if the Committee would like to hold a special meeting to discuss another **LIVE Conference**, and the response was affirmative. The meeting will be scheduled for February and will focus entirely on the **LIVE Conference**.

Additional Business

- Jamie Magee made the following announcements:
 - Joan Glechel is a retired psychiatric nurse who is now working with the Alzheimer's Association.
 - On Thursday, January 29th, there will be a special screening of the award-winning film "Alive Inside...A Story of Music & Memory" at 7:00 p.m. at the Lewes Presbyterian Church, 133 Kings Highway, in Lewes.
 - The Alzheimer's Association will be offering two programs on Tuesday, March 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on "The Basics...Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease" at the Milton Library, 121 Union Street, in Milton.
 - State Alzheimer's conferences are scheduled in Southeastern Pennsylvania on April 27th, South Jersey on June 2nd, and in Delaware at the Dover Downs Hotel & Conference Center, 1131 North DuPont Highway, in Dover, on Wednesday, November 18th.
 - Jitterbug, Hand and Line Dancing will be held to benefit the Alzheimer's Association on Saturday, April 25th, at the Roxana Fire Hall, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.
 - There will be "An Evening of Doo Wop and Oldies" on Saturday, April 11th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the CHEER Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road, in Georgetown.
- Sally Beaumont stated that the Advisory Committee has been in existence since 1988, she has been Chair for two terms, and she is still unsure of exactly what the Committee should be doing. Since the Committee serves at the pleasure of Council, she would welcome getting the two groups together to really brainstorm. Ms. Beaumont also made the observation that the County Council has not been represented at either of the **LIVE** conferences that have been held thus far. With this being her last term as Chair, she would like for the Committee to know and be comfortable with its purpose.
- Councilman Rob Arlett stated that intervention is needed in Sussex, and it is important to reach out to everyone in prevention efforts. With his father in hospice care and mother at

Brandywine, he is very aware of the challenges involved, and caregiving is tough. Councilman Arlett attended the meeting because he feels it is important to learn and be involved, and he will make sure the County Council is active in the future.

- Robert Corsa commented that the County seems to run on crisis management.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware.

Adjourn

A Motion was made by Ruth Beideman, seconded by Scott Phillips, to adjourn. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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