

RUTH ANN BEIDEMAN, CHAIRPERSON  
LINDA FORTE  
ANTIONETTE JOHNSON  
JAMIE MAGEE  
CATHY PARKER



SCOTT PHILLIPS  
LARRY SAVAGE  
FRANCINE SHOCKLEY  
FRAN SMITH  
HELEN SMITH

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

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**May 21, 2018**

**A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, May 21, 2018, at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. The following members were present:**

**Ruth Ann Beideman  
Linda Forte  
Antionette Johnson  
Jamie Magee  
Cathy Parker**

**Scott Phillips  
Larry Savage  
Francine Shockley  
Fran Smith  
Helen Smith**

### **Call to Order**

**Ruth Ann Beideman, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Beideman introduced two new members appointed by the Sussex County Council on May 15<sup>th</sup> to fill vacancies on the Committee – Linda Forte and Antionette Johnson.**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A Motion was made by Scott Phillips, seconded by Jamie Magee, to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.**

### **Correspondence**

**Ruth Ann Beideman received two emails regarding resignations from the Conference Planning Subcommittee – Anthony DelFranco resigned due to an increased work schedule, and Christine Santy is no longer able to serve.**



### **Guest Speakers**

Scott Phillips introduced Bill Peterson, Administrator, and Giulia Kirsch, Activity Director, of the new Memory Enhancement Center at the Delaware Veterans Home.

Ms. Kirsch explained that the new Memory Enhancement Center focuses on person-centered dementia care and is designed to be more reflective of a person's home life prior to entering the Delaware Veterans Home, aiming to cater to their individual needs and schedules. Residents are asked about activities they enjoy that would help make their stay more pleasant. The dementia wing is arranged similar to the main street of a town, with a five-and-dime, bus stop, apothecary, dining room, and lounge. Clouds portrayed in the ceiling, along with a stuffed dog and cat that "talk" to the residents and to each other, make it feel more like home.

Technology is used at the Center to interact with the veterans through iN2L (It's Never 2 Late), a picture-based touch-screen interface program that encourages learning. Skyping to keep in touch with loved ones, games, trivia, crossword puzzles, and brain teasers are also available to residents.

The Snoezelen multi-sensory environment lounge area consists of many different sensory experiences with lights, a large screen with different kinds of pictures, lava lamp, bubble machine, and soothing sounds. The area is designed to help reduce agitation, anxiety, and undesirable behaviors.

Mr. Peterson advised that veterans who have lived in Delaware at least three years and have three years of military duty, that were honorably discharged and have a medical condition, are eligible to become residents of the Delaware Veterans Home located at 100 Veterans Boulevard in Milford. Once renovations are complete, there will be between 120 and 130 beds at the Veterans Home, with the dementia unit containing 20 beds. There is currently a two-and-a-half year waiting list for the facility. Mr. Peterson stated that the dementia program was funded by grants, and the yearly fee to maintain it is also grant-funded. An early assessment of the program shows that falls have decreased markedly since its inception.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

As a result of the resignation of Christine Santy from the Conference Planning Subcommittee, the floor was opened for nominations for her replacement. Linda Forte was nominated, and there were no other nominations. A Motion was made by Helen Smith, seconded by Jamie Magee, to approve Linda Forte as a member of the Conference Planning Subcommittee. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

The remaining vacancy on the Subcommittee will be addressed at the July meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- Jamie Magee announced that she will be presenting three Alzheimer's programs at Easterseals in Georgetown on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day. Ruth Pryor will be presenting the same series at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- Anthony DelFranco stated that he has enjoyed his five years on the Conference Planning Subcommittee and thanked everyone for their support over the years.
- Linda Rogers reported that the Volunteer Delaware 50+ luncheon for volunteers was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. A Matter of Balance classes are currently taking place and will be repeated all over the County through the fall.
- Barbie McDaniel announced Delaware Hospice's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Race to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Hospice in Milford.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, July 16, 2018, at the Greenwood CHEER Center, 41 Schulze Road, Greenwood, Delaware.

### **Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Jamie Magee, seconded by Fran Smith, to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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