

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

November 17, 2014

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Millville United Methodist Church, 36405 Club House Road, Millville, Delaware. The following members were present:

Sally Beaumont
Jamie Magee
Penny Orndorff

Scott Phillips
Larry Savage
Anna Short

Call to Order

Sally Beaumont, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Ms. Beaumont welcomed everyone, introduced the Committee members to the audience, and proceeded to explain, for those who may not be familiar, when the Committee meets, how members are appointed, and that meetings are conducted using Robert's Rules of Order.

Ms. Beaumont thanked the hostess of the meeting, Elizabeth Skinner of Millville United Methodist Church.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Jamie Magee, seconded by Scott Phillips, to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled Committee meeting of September 15, 2014, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

A Motion was made by Penny Orndorff, seconded by Jamie Magee, to approve the minutes of the Conference Planning Subcommittee meeting of September 15, 2014, as distributed. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Correspondence

Ms. Beaumont read an email received from Carol Barnett, Chairperson, Elderly & Disabled Transit Advisory Committee (EDTAC), State of Delaware, advising that a training by Gary Farr entitled “The Fearless Caregiver” will be held in New Castle County in May. Ms. Barnett is suggesting that Sussex County provide the same training on May 12, 2015. The total cost is \$5,000, and the State of Delaware will give \$2,500 toward that cost. Ken Bock, Deputy Director of CHEER, is offering the venue and a discount on food. Ms. Beaumont asked if the Committee would like for her to investigate this training further and report back, and the response was affirmative.

Guest Speaker

Anna Short introduced fellow Advisory Committee member Jamie Magee, who is also the Sussex County Program Coordinator for the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. The Delaware Valley Chapter has 18 centers, serving over 294,000 people with dementia.

Ms. Magee began by clarifying for everyone the difference between dementia and Alzheimer’s disease—dementia is an umbrella term, indicating a loss of cognitive function that interferes with everyday life, while Alzheimer’s is a form of dementia. Alzheimer’s is the most prevalent, progressive, and degenerative form of dementia.

Statistics show that 70 percent of all dementia is caused by Alzheimer’s. Approximately 5,000,000 Americans will be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, 3.2 million of which will be female. The irony of this statistic is that women provide most of the caregiving, yet females are twice as likely as males to develop the disease. The stress of caregiving can cause a host of other diseases as well. While all other forms of dementia have decreased, it has been found that Alzheimer’s disease has increased in numbers and is the sixth leading cause of death in America. At least 500,000 people die of Alzheimer’s each year.

The “baby boomers” started turning 65 in January of 2011, and one in nine will develop Alzheimer’s disease. There are not enough services for those who have the disease now, with most care being provided by family members who do not get paid. It is estimated that 17.7 billion hours of unpaid care were provided in 2013.

Services for dementia patients are seriously lacking in Sussex County. The closing of the Adult Day Care Center in Laurel on September 30, 2014, leaves only Easter Seals Adult Day and CHEER Adult Day in Georgetown, and Gull House Adult Day on the east side of the County. When adult day services are necessary to relieve a caregiver, Alzheimer’s patients must be bused from the western side of the county to central or eastern Sussex County, even though they do not typically ride well. Given the fact that caregivers do die from taking care of family members with Alzheimer’s, it is crucial that they put themselves first to survive and be there for their loved one.

Delaware ranks fifth in the nation in attracting retirees, most of which retire to Sussex County. Their families are often four to six hours away, and currently there are no actual emergency services in place to provide stabilization and intervention for those with Alzheimer’s until family arrives.

It is interesting to note that persons with a first generation relative with Alzheimer's are at an increased risk of developing the disease—about 25 to 30 percent higher. For those over the age of 65, the risk doubles every five years, so advocating for Alzheimer's disease to be stopped is crucial. In January 2011, a bill was signed to launch the National Alzheimer's Project, which developed the National Plan for Alzheimer's and increased federal funding for Alzheimer's research.

The Alzheimer's Association funds basic, preliminary research, but there is a real need for treatment options. Right now there are four different types of medication being given to Alzheimer's patients. For early- to mid-stage patients, Aricept, Exelon, and Razadyne is provided to work on the neurotransmitters in the brain, and they work for approximately 18 months. For mid- to late-stage patients with the disease, Namenda is provided to work with the sugars in the brain, which works for about 18 months as well. These drugs do not reverse the disease process, they simply help to maintain by holding the person at their present cognitive and functional abilities.

Ms. Magee made available advocacy cards to anyone interested in becoming an advocate of Alzheimer's. Whenever any type of State legislation is being presented with regard to Alzheimer's disease, advocates receive an e-notice to take action and they are provided with a process to contact their State legislators concerning the issue at hand.

A question was raised regarding the State Plan on Alzheimer's. Ms. Magee advised that each state was required to develop a plan under the national plan. Delaware's State Plan on Alzheimer's is law, but has not been implemented yet. Those working with the plan are in need of representatives from Sussex County to participate in their workforce groups. Ms. Magee will be happy to provide contact information on the workforce groups upon request.

At the conclusion of Ms. Magee's presentation, an opportunity for public comment was given. New attendees, as well as those regularly attending, were asked if they would like to introduce themselves and address the group.

- Bob Chin, member of Millville United Methodist Church and AARP advocate - thanked the Committee for the meeting
- Bob Mills, member of Millville United Methodist Church - heard of a new program called 'Aging Gracefully'
- Kirk Stonnell - has a relative with dementia
- Maggi Gizzi, Cadbury at Lewes - a gerontology nurse, learning about resources
- Georgiann Deist, also a nurse at Cadbury
- Amber Woodland, partner with Procino, Wells & Woodland
- Darlene Phillips, Nurse Supervisor at Stockley Center

- Bob, a concerned citizen
- Frank Hut - offers preparedness seminars
- Barbie McDaniel, Delaware Hospice – reported that the organization is getting ready for their annual Festival of Trees
- Sara Munseu - sister was diagnosed one year ago
- Joanne Subach - husband was recently diagnosed with vascular dementia, interested in caregiving information
- Randy Nelson, Addus Healthcare
- Elizabeth Skinner, member of Millville United Methodist Church and retired nurse

Old Business

Sally Beaumont thanked Randy Nelson and Amber Woodland for their help with the **2014 LIVE Conference**.

Ms. Beaumont shared a written report developed from evaluations received from those attending the conference. There was a 65 percent return rate on the surveys, considered a good rate of return. The largest expense for this year's conference was equipment rental, costing approximately \$3,200. There was no charge to hold the conference at Sussex Academy, so the overall cost was about the same as last year.

Randy Nelson has some ideas for next year's conference. There are two issues that he is trying to address at the home care agency Addus Healthcare—veterans' care and Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Nelson stated that he finds there is a real disconnect between home care and State care, and believes there could be an entire conference centered around veterans' care.

New Business

None to address at this time.

Additional Business

None to address at this time.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 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 Anna Short, seconded by Larry Savage, to adjourn. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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