

Commonwealth Council on Aging
3rd Quarter Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2013
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Virginia Division for the Aging
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Henrico, VA 23229

Present

Roberto Quinones, Chair
Beth Barber
Robert Blancato
Karen Fortier
Richard W. Lindsay, M.D.
Susan McCammon
Gail Nardi
Nancy New
Valerie Scott Price
Steve Reardon
James A. Rothrock
Courtney Tierney
Vernon Wildy

Absent

Kyle Allen, D.O.
Gene Ecton Davis
David Farnum
Arthur Giesen
Brenda K. Nelum
Terry Smith

Guests

The Honorable John O'Bannon, III, M.D.
Ellie Barber, Citizen Observer
Charlotte Arbogast, VDH
Janet James, VDA
Carter Harrison, Alzheimer's Association
Bruce DeSimone, VHDA
Thom Butcher, Richmond DSS
Cheyle Atkins, Richmond DSS

Staff

Amy Marschean
Cecily Slasor

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Quinones called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., welcomed members and guests, and asked that they introduce themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Quinones asked members if they had reviewed the January 2013 meeting

minutes. He stated Mrs. Nelum previously requested that her statement in the Public Guardian & Conservator Advisory Board (PGCAB) Report be amended and staff will incorporate her edit regarding the use of retired accountants as conservators rather than auditors. ⁱ Mrs. Fortier requested that in her PGCAB report in the section regarding a northern Virginia law firm and their guardianship cases, the word “*allegedly*” be placed in front of overcharging. There was a motion by Dr. Lindsay to approve the January 23, 2013 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barber and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rothrock Report Budget and Legislative Update

Commissioner Rothrock provided an update on DARS and reported on the 2013 General Assembly session. DARS did well with regard to budgeting issues receiving an additional 2 million dollars for its programs. The agency received \$100,000 for a new Dementia Services Coordinator position for VDA. The new position will need the approval of the Governor’s office and he hopes to have someone in the position by mid-July. The Council’s bill, SJR 366, to encourage the AAAs to take a leadership role around Age Wave planning did not pass, but a letter was sent by the Senate Rules Committee and the AAAs are formulating a response according to Ms. Tierney. He reported that Marilyn Tavenner was approved that morning by the U.S. Senate committee to be the new director of CMS and her nomination now goes to the full Senate.

The Commissioner highlighted the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. DARS received just under \$200,000 to provide vouchers for respite services for family caregivers. The amount of each voucher is up to \$400 to reimburse for respite care. The program provided good data about the need for respite services that can be used in the future for General Assembly budget requests documenting the needs of family caregivers. Caregivers include parents caring for children with disabilities, autism, persons caring for an older relative, particularly those persons with Alzheimer’s and dementia. Ms. Tierney put this issue on the Joint Commission on Health Care’s radar last year. Mrs. Nardi remarked that the Alzheimer’s Association and AARP have really focused on caregiver issues and support.

DARS is working with the AAAs on Care Transitions from hospitals. The Care Transitions programs seek to reduce hospital readmissions after discharge. Further, the Commissioner stated there is new leadership at several of Virginia’s AAAs: Petersburg, Charlottesville, Burkeville, and Front Royal. VDA has held two webinars on governance for AAAs and CILs and both have been well-received.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) moved over to DARS last July and DSS’ Adult Services and Adult Protective Services (APS) is on track to move to DARS July 2013. He noted that there has been good collaboration between LTCOP, the Public Guardian and Conservator Program and APS.

He reported that Sequestration may lead to 5% across the board cuts and there could be more. This information was shared with Senator Warner and he had a conference call with the AAAs last week. He has concerns about the proposed cuts.

Best Practices Committee (Handout for 2014 Best Practices Program Procedures)

Richard W. Lindsay, MD

Dr. Lindsay reported that the outside experts this year for the 2013 Best Practices Award program were Dr. Ed Ansello, Virginia Center On Aging, and Mr. Charles IX, President of Stay At Home Personal Care in Charlottesville. They provided valuable input. The Best Practices Committee recommended the following award winners and Honorable Mentions for selection:

First Place (\$5000) - Caring for You, Caring for Me

Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health
Williamsburg

Second Place (\$3000) -

Growing Younger

Partnership between YMCA of Greater Richmond, Senior Connections and United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg

Third Place (\$2,000) -Community Dialogue on Financial Abuse Among Older Adults

Elder Justice Coalition in New River Valley

Honorable Mention goes to:

- F.R.E.E. Foundation Equipment Reuse/Recycling and Gifting Program (Roanoke) - collect, sanitize, repair equipment
- Fairfax County Family Caregiver Support Program
- Family Caregiver Support Seminar by Senior Connections

Karen Fortier moved that the Council approve the Best Practices award winners and Honorable Mentions. The motion was seconded by Beth Barber and passed unanimously.

Dr. Lindsay reported that the committee recommended a few process changes for the 2014 Best Practices Awards including striking the word "brief" from the summary of program, allowing previous winners who have received honorable mention without a cash award to resubmit, targeting the award to adults 60 years or older, and noting on the nomination form that incomplete applications will not be considered with check boxes of all scoring categories. He moved these changes and Robert Blancato seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff noted that letters of award should go out next week and plans will be made to travel to the three winners for the award presentations in May in conjunction with Older Virginians Month. Dr. Lindsay noted the Best Practices Awards are the prestigious annual recognition of successful and innovative aging programs. In order to grow these awards and create more interest we need to promote them any way we

can. Mr. Quinones noted that social media using email lists, LinkedIn and other online organizations can spread the word about these awards. Commissioner Rothrock encouraged Council members to 'like' the DARS Facebook page and stated there is a lot of good information on the page.

Nominating Committee

Roberto Quinones, Chair

The Council Chair will appoint two members to the nominating committee and three members shall be elected by members of the Council present at the meeting.

Chair Quinones appointed Vernon Wildy and Brenda Nelum. Mrs. Nelum was not present at the meeting, however, the Chair will follow up with her to confirm her appointment. Volunteers are Beth Barber, Susan McCammon and Nancy New.

Robert Blancato moved that the committee members who volunteered be accepted, and Dr. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington D.C. Update (Handout)

Robert Blancato

Mr. Blancato reported on Sequestration at the federal level. He stated the financial hit is just over 5% across the board cuts to hundreds of programs. However, Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP are exempted. Sequestration will be in effect until at least September 30, 2013. The FY 2014 budget process is underway with the President's budget being released later today. The President's budget will have some proposals on entitlement reform. The two biggest proposals are: (i) raising the eligibility age under Medicare from 65 to 67 (unlikely) and (ii) Chained CPI under Social Security possible. He stated there is nothing new to report about the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization. He urged Council members to contact their legislators about the renewal of OAA and stated Virginia Representative Bobby Scott is on the OAA committee. There is new talk about a future White House Conference on Aging in 2015. AOA/ACL has declared 2013 the Year of Elder Abuse Prevention.

V4A Update

Courtney Tierney

V4A will hold their spring annual meeting on the Eastern Shore next week. The Veterans Administration proposed a new federal regulation for a health program for veterans and the V4A commented that the eligibility requirement that the program had to be a Medicare/Medicaid provider would have excluded CILs and AAAs. As the Commissioner noted, the aging network is doing a great job on Care Transitions. V4A was disappointed to not receive additional funding from the 2013 General Assembly this year.

2013 General Assembly Report (Handouts)

Hon. John O'Bannon, III, MD

Delegate O'Bannon stated, that unlike at the federal level, Virginia's General Assembly did produce a bipartisan balanced budget at the veto session held on April 3. He commended council members on their involvement and contributions. For the aging issues, members of the legislature really benefit from having good data. Medicaid was one of the biggest issues this past session because it is the fastest growing part of the state budget. The Affordable Care Act has already energized states and programs regardless of what happens at the federal level. For example, he commended the Oregon community model of care that focuses on primary care. In the health care arena, there is a tremendous opportunity to build better systems through negotiation and building in more flexibility. The focus on prevention and primary care is a significant change. He also stated we need to engage the nursing home industry to innovate. He hears Virginia has too many nursing home beds, yet the Medicaid beds are all full. Chair Quinones asked how do we as a Council advocate on all the issues that touch on aging? Dr. O'Bannon responded that nobody gets everything they want and compromising is key. Legislators will defer to persons who bring aging expertise and provide much needed data. He stated it is important to form personal relationships with your legislators and be involved. The best communication is face-to-face, second is a phone call or email followed by a personal letter and last is social media.

Planning and Development Committee

Robert Blancato

The Planning and Development Committee met this morning to discuss Raising funds for future Best Practices Awards beginning 2015 and beyond. To begin, they will compile a list of relevant entities that have the ability to provide funds and Mr. Blancato said there are a good number of entities in Virginia that we can approach. He asked Council members to let the Committee know of prospective funders. On May 14, a Community Conversation will be held in Old City Hall in Alexandria, in conjunction with the Alexandria Commission on Aging. Alexandria has just completed their Age Wave Plan. Nancy New is working toward a conversation in the Richmond area for Congressional District 7.

Legislative Committee

Susan McCammon

Ms. McCammon asked for new volunteers to join the committee, and for a new person to become its Chair. The Legislative Committee will be developing its legislative recommendations for the July 10 meeting of the Council. There was some discussion about recognizing and thanking legislators for their support of issues.

New Member Handbook Report (Handouts)

Nancy New

Ms. New talked about her start on the Council and the need for information. She said initially there was good information in the notebook given to new members at the orientation meeting, but she felt additional information on aging topics or a current

member mentor who could" show the new member the ropes" would be advisable. The Chair requested members to volunteer to act as coaches to new members. The Chair suggested a column on the Table of Contents page that would show effective date of each document. There was discussion about the four vacancies on the Council and how to fill those positions. The Chair expressed concern regarding the amount of time it has taken to fill open seats and what the Council Should do to expedite the process. Interested persons should contact the appointing authority (Governor or House Speaker/Senate Rules) about a particular board to which they wish to be appointed.

Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board (VPGCAB) Report

Karen Fortier, Esq.

The meeting March 26 of the VPGCAB was well attended. Board members wanted to know more about the local Public Guardian Programs and how they work. JFS of Tidewater presented on their services and talked about a few hard to place clients. Janet James, who manages the program, stated there are currently 148 documented persons on waiting lists for public guardian. Attorney John Powell provided information on the VGA. Senior Connections' Executive Director Thelma Watson presented on her agency's program and the many services of the agency. A citizen attended the meeting and spoke about a very difficult guardianship situation.

New Business

Mr. Quinones discussed Council vacancies and his recent email about Aging Careers and Education Week. Mr. Quinones would like to know about any groups doing this in Virginia and working toward increasing the pipeline of youth interested in aging careers, as most existing programs seem to focus on professionals already in the field. Dr. Lindsay said there is a federally-funded program on aging at Monticello H.S. in Charlottesville. Staff noted Delegate Stolle also had legislation this year to extend eligibility for the Physician Loan Repayment Program to graduates of accredited medical schools who are currently employed in a geriatrics fellowship and who agree to a minimum two-year period of medical service in the Commonwealth.

Future Meeting Dates and Upcoming Events

Roberto Quinones

The next meetings are scheduled for July 10 and September 25, 2013.

Public Comment Period

Roberto Quinones

Carter Harrison of the Alzheimer's Association told the council that he had thanked Dr. O'Bannon for support of funding for the ARDRAF award in the amount of \$125,000. He noted that Delegate Stolle strip funding for the proton beam in order to find the funding for his geriatric education loan repayment bill.

Ms. Arbogast told Council members that the Department of Health has a complaint hotline people can call concerning home health care, ambulatory surgery centers,

nursing facilities, and hospice organizations.

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quinones adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

ⁱ “Mrs. Nelum asked why not hire retired accountants as they would be more appropriate to serve as conservators than attorneys, and not as expensive as attorneys.”