

**Commonwealth Council on Aging
DARS - Virginia Division for the Aging
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100
Henrico, VA 23229
July 10, 2013**

Meeting Minutes

Present

Roberto Quinones (Chair)
Dr. Kyle Allen
Beth Barber
Robert Blancato
David Farnum
Karen Fortier
Arthur Giesen
Susan McCammon
Brenda K. Nelum
Nancy New
Courtney Tierney
Lynne Williams (new member replacing Gail Nardi)

Absent

Juanita Bailey
Dr. Richard Lindsay
Valerie Scott Price
Stephen Reardon
Vernon Wildy

Guests

Carter Harrison, Alzheimer's Association
Ben Sharpe, VDA Intern
Armani Joyner, VDA Intern
Bruce DeSimone, VHDA
Steve Ankiel, DMAS, for Terry Smith
Thom Butcher, Richmond APS
Donna Smith, Richmond DSS

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Quinones welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Mr. Quinones asked members and guests to introduce themselves. Ms. Marschean announced that the Commissioner was unable to attend today's meeting.

Review/Approval of Minutes

Chair Quinones asked members if they had comments or corrections to the April meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by David Farnum and seconded by Brenda Nelum. Minutes were approved unanimously and accepted.

Washington Update

Robert Blancato

Mr. Blancato provided an update on Sequestration and noted that, from an advocacy standpoint, the aging network is focused on no additional cuts and protecting programs. The Older Americans Act reauthorization is moving slowly. In May, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont introduced legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Older Americans Act which supports Meals on Wheels and other critical programs for seniors. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act requires getting people educated and enrolled in health exchanges. The Elder Justice Act of 2009, as part of the Affordable Care Act, establishes the Elder Justice Coordinating Council to coordinate activities related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation across the Federal government. The Council's report is due this summer. HHS announced that they will be releasing \$2 million for elder justice this year.

V4A Report

Courtney Tierney

Ms. Tierney reported that the V4A conference is being held in Roanoke this week. V4A is following the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Program (for those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid) and is very concerned about its implementation and funding for VICAP. Bay Aging was recently presented an award for their Care Transitions program. Several Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have new directors: JABA, Piedmont, Crater and Rappahannock. Terri Lynch has just retired from Arlington AAA so they, too, will see a new director. The V4A will be asking for additional funding for Home and Community-Based Services. Each decade's Census means a re-allocation of funding from the federal and state governments for the AAAs. All Area Agencies on Aging gained population in the age 60 and older category. Fourteen of 25 Area Agencies have lost funding, even though they are serving more elderly in their communities. Other Area Agencies have had such a significant gain in population, up to 64%, that state funding is needed to assist with services. In 2012, the General Assembly provided an additional \$1.5 million for FY2014; \$825,000 is still needed. V4A will adopt their legislative platform at their conference.

Committee Reports

Best Practices Committee

Richard Lindsay, Chair

Ms. Marschean reported that she and Dr. Lindsay travelled successfully the week of May 20th to present the 2013 Best Practices Awards to the following awardees: 1st Place award went to Caring for you, Caring for Me - Newport News

2nd Place award went to Growing Younger program - Richmond
3rd Place award went to Community Dialogue on Financial Exploitation –
Blacksburg

All awardees were very appreciative of the Council’s recognition.

Planning and Development Committee

Robert Blancato, Chair

Mr. Blancato reported that the Community Conversation on Aging held in Alexandria in May in conjunction with the Alexandria Commission on Aging received a good response from the community. It was well organized and well-attended. The mayor and other local officials attended. Mrs. Nelum agreed that the event was well-attended. She had approached some minority organizations to provide input, and in spite of the last minute notice, they did attend. Ms. Fortier commended Ms. Nelum for this important outreach. Chair Quinones agreed the event was a success. Ms. Marschean added that the local Alexandria AAA provided enormous assistance in hosting the event and bringing in people. Ms. New reported that she and Mr. Wildy are working on organizing a Community Conversation on Aging in the metro Richmond area. Dr. Thelma Watson, Executive Director of Senior Connections, has promised her support for the event.

Ms. Nelum shared handouts from the AARP. Ms. Tierney called attention to the VDA Tuesday Mailing yesterday which had an item of interest on the Community Living Program (CLP) grant and contained really good data.

Legislative Committee

Action: Adoption of Legislative Platform

Susan McCammon, Chair

Ms. McCammon reported that the committee met on June 24 and again before today’s meeting, but was unable to establish a quorum either time. The committee developed the following proposals to recommend to the Governor in their annual report:

- Additional Public Guardian and Conservator Program funding to stabilize the program, provide for unmet demand, and expand the program
- Provide funding for services and supports that enable older Virginians and those with disabilities to remain in or return home
- Monitor the dual eligible integration demonstration for quality, safety and effectiveness to assure that the aging network is integrated with the insurers for the dual eligible integration project.

- Promote innovation and models to “de-institutionalize” the nursing home environment and work towards more supports and integration to allow older adults to age in place.
- Promote “elder safe hospitals” and elder safe emergency departments. Quality standards for hospitals.
- Ensure voting access for seniors.

Dr. Allen stated that Riverside has had success with the Household Model of long-term care homes. Staff, residents, and families work together and cost savings realized in this model could be replicated. Further, Dr. Allen spoke to the dangers faced by frail, older persons in hospital emergency rooms. Mr. Farnum brought up the issue of the shortage of nurses and doctors in hospitals and the lack of personnel in hospitals to help. There was discussion about the shortage and the need to address it. The group amended the legislative platform to include appropriately trained workforce for geriatric patients. Mr. Blancato echoed Mrs. Nelum’s comment that Medicaid expansion be listed as a separate issue in the platform. To the list above was therefore added:

- Promote appropriately trained health care workforce for the aging population.
- Promote Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Quinones made a motion that we accept the legislative platform as presented with the above additions. Mr. Blancato seconded the motion. Dr. Allen amended the wording in the second bullet point to make sure vulnerable adults captured those with dementia. The Council voted unanimously to support the legislative platform as amended.

Nominating Committee

Nancy New

Action: Adoption of New Officers

Chair Quinones reported that the Nominating Committee met to develop a slate of officers and asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Quinones reminded the members that everyone was given the opportunity to serve on the committee. Mrs. Nelum brought a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order and it does state that persons *can* serve on a Nominating Committee and be nominated for a position. Ms. New reported that the committee met and nominated Beth Barber for Chair and Susan McCammon for Vice Chair. There being no nominations from the floor, Mr. Quinones moved to accept the slate as presented by Ms. New. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blancato and Council voted unanimously to accept the slate of nominations.

Public Guardian & Conservator Advisory Board Report

Amy Marschean

Ms. Marschean reported that the Public Guardian & Conservator Advisory Board last met on June 14. The board has invited public guardian programs to present at each meeting. At this meeting, the Commonwealth Catholic Charities of Richmond program presented with a focus on their multi-disciplinary team. The program director from the Chesapeake Department of Social Services also presented with a similar focus.

Janet James reported on the needed funding for the programs both to address unmet demand and to expand the programs. There are currently 601 slots funded statewide in the public guardian programs. This advisory board also voted for new officers at their last meeting.

New Business

- **Assisted Living Facility Closure Process**

Mrs. Nelum has been following news reports about issues in assisted living facilities (ALF) around the state. There is one owner of several facilities in Tidewater who has had health and safety issues regarding residents at his sites. New Council member Lynne Williams, from the Licensing Division in DSS, reported that DSS is well aware of this individual and reported that all but two of his facilities are now closed. Ms. Williams reported that when one of his facilities closed recently, residents were relocated in the same area. Ms. Williams notified the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of DSS and believes that the Secretary and Governor are well aware of the issues at these facilities. Mrs. Nelum will further research this issue. Carter Harrison asked the Chair if he could comment. He then noted that DSS has the statutory authority to summarily suspend a license when there is a threat to public health and safety. Both Ms. Fortier and Mr. Giesen stated the Council should send a letter to Commissioner Rothrock to invite someone from the offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to the September meeting to discuss the licensing summary suspension procedure. Ms. Fortier so moved and it was seconded by Ms. Nelum. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Proposed 2014 Council Calendar**

January 22, 2014
April 9, 2014
July 9, 2014
September 24, 2014

Ms. Marschean distributed a proposed 2014 calendar. Ms. Fortier moved that the 2014 meeting calendar be approved and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Barber. The motion passed.

- Mrs. Barber recognized Mr. Quinones and his contributions to the council as Chair.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Harrison thanked Mr. Quinones for his service as Chair of the council and looks forward to working with the council in the future.

Future Meeting Dates

September 25, 2013

January 22, 2014

April 9, 2014

July 9, 2014

September 24, 2014

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quinones adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.