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## Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Services Work Group

Date: May 21, 2007

Attending: Carol Aronson (co-chair), Marianne Brennan, Pat Cohen, Ann Cooper, Betsy Creamer, Kelly Cunningham, Diane Drew, Darcia Ferrari, Mary Geis, Joyce Gusewelle, Carolyn Guthman, Matt Hartman, Carol Lentz Headley, Marsha Johnson, Myrtle Klauer, John Lackland, Robin Morgan, Mike O'Donnell, Mary Patton, Sally Petrone, Tarry Plattner, Margaret Rudnik, Karen Schinker and Jason Speaks.

Guests: Lesley Grobe, Patricia Black, Charlotte Kauffman, Lee Fraser and Beth O'Grady

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The April 16, 2007, minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Gero-Psych Initiative Presentation:**

Mike O'Donnell facilitated a discussion by Charlotte Kauffman, Lee Fraser, Beth O'Grady and Patricia Black on Statewide Implementation of the Gero-Psych Initiative. Mike distributed a copy of a draft position paper requesting an expansion of the Gero-Psych program statewide. This expansion is requesting \$2.25 million to be assigned to the Department Human Services. The current project serves 4 areas of the state (PSAs 8,9,10, & 11).

- Charlotte Kauffman, Division of Mental Health, discussed the importance of coordination and collaboration between behavioral health, aging, and medical providers. The project stated as an RFP with accompanying legislation. They funded 5 providers to services seniors 60 years and older. The primary focus was on building collaborations to discuss resources available to serve the complex needs of older adults. The focus wasn't to provide the actual service, but to link the clients with the services already available. Charlotte discussed how the program has expanded greatly from the original RFP by providing training to the CCUs, and by providing numerous mental health and aging forums. The forums have taken place in 4 other areas of the state (PSAs 4,5,6, and 12) to educate those CCUs and AAAs.
- Lee Fraser, Chestnut Health Systems, discussed the local aspect of the program as a provider. Her program provides outreach and she reports that over 90% are delivered with in the seniors homes. Their goal is enhance access and reduce risks and decrease the severity of the disability. They complete assessments, crisis work, referrals and clinical education while in the clients homes. Services are available on a no decline basis. They do not restrict access for ability to pay. Lee presented a case study to demonstrate how the program works.
- Patricia Black works for Pillars, a comprehensive mental health and social service agency in Suburban Cook that covers 4 townships and 38 communities. Their program serves clients 50 and older and

provides a wide range of services. Their program is described as a “wrap around services for seniors” and offers a multi-discipline team approach for collaboration. Assessments are done in the home and counselors develop a plan to address their needs. Their motto is do “whatever it takes”. Patricia also discussed a case study of their program.

- Beth O’Grady from CLESE, a membership coalition of 45 members discussed their treatment program. Beth stated that research shows the immigrants have a 30-40% depression rate and 1 out of every 5 Korean immigrant showed signs of depression but received no treatment. Refugees are formally screened for Mental health issues upon entrance to the USA. CLESE’s pilot group consisted of Chinese, Korean, Polish and Spanish nationalities. (Russians are in next years proposal). 526 people were surveyed and 58% said yes to one or both of the screening questions for depression. The treatment program consisted of an 8 week session. Beth stated that social connectedness is the key. All 4 groups are still meeting eventhough the 8 week session ended in mid April. Beth stated that they would like to expand their program to the refugee populations and to expand out to other geographic areas.

**Transportation 101** (this topic will be continued at the June 18 meeting):

Ed Heflin of the Rural Transit Assistance Center spoke on his program. RTAC received a grant to provided technical assistance to transportation providers. Through this grant a coordination primer was also developed. Ed reported that the way to fill the gaps special niches of population is to develop an overall comprehensive transportation program. Niche transportation programs have been shown to not be successful. He said there are 11 Human Service Transportation Plans (HTSP) throughout the state. The RTAC helps agencies work through how to get more dollars for their programs. Ed stated that there is 50% more federal money available and that the transportation system is on the brink of a boom. He said coordination is all about willingness to cooperate. HSTP meetings are just starting. The more people that go to these meetings the better. Anyone can go, you do not need to be invited. A professional planner will be at each meeting. A committee for each region will be formed and recommendations will be sent to a state committee. ICCT is not a compliance agency – IDOT does that. Ed stated that good programs will offer an education program that helps seniors and family members determine when its time for a senior to turn over their keys and stop driving.

**Next Steps:**

- Mike explained that transportation will be covered in more depth at the next Services meeting. Topics will include Public Transportation, Faith and Action groups, Volunteer programs, Rural Health Policy groups, Escort programs and Department programs.
- The April meeting minutes will be posted on the Department’s website. The website address is [www.state.il.us/aging/1athome/oasa/oasa.htm](http://www.state.il.us/aging/1athome/oasa/oasa.htm).

**Meeting Schedule:**

This committee meets on the third Monday of the month from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the AARP office in Springfield. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18. Future meeting dates are:

June 18	September 17
July 16	October 15
August 20	November 19