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## Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

# Workforce and Caregiver Work Group

Date: October 15, 2007, conference call

Attending: David Lindeman (Chair), Darby Anderson, Jan Cichowlas, Betsy Creamer, Elizabeth Essex, Martha Holstein, Peg Keeley, Naoko Muramatsu, Scott Musser, Wilma Schmitz and Cathi Sipes.

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### Discussion Summary:

#### **REVIEW OF 2008 COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES FOR OASAC REPORT**

The next full OASAC meeting is scheduled to November 8, 9:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.. Committee objectives will be reviewed at this meeting.

#### **REVIEW OF IDPH/CDC CAREGIVER SURVEY**

The IDPH/CDC survey has a caregiving module for which we could buy pertinent questions. These questions, however, do not give enough detail and would cost \$3000/question. One of the weaknesses of the caregiver survey questions is that it does not address the issue of being a multiple caregiver. Martha asked what information we would like to have, and what ends are we trying to accomplish. Betsy said that what would be most helpful to the caregiver group is a survey that would ask caregivers what their service needs are, broken out by county or PSA. Service needs also include out-of-pocket costs. David states that we need concrete information, and concludes that we would not recommend spending \$30,000 to add the questions to the CDC survey. The information we need to gather is more specific.

#### **STATUS REPORT ON COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

**Darby Anderson will email broker John Walker**, Level Ten Consulting, regarding health benefits for small businesses.

**A Conference on Working Caregivers** could gain support from the IDOA Office of Training. Betsy would be happy to help facilitate this: (Betsy will meet with Rose Lober-Hamilton, who works with the training programs for IDOA.) The goal of the conference is to identify organizations in this area where there may be a public-private interest in caregivers, and to highlight key issues for administration and legislation. This would be a working conference. This conference should be held in the Chicago area.

Wilma Schmitz inquired about dates set for this conference. No dates have been set yet and have been deferred until we have a focus on the content and a champion to move it ahead. We have reviewed some of what the national caregiver organizations (i.e., Family Caregiver Alliance) have done. Wilma is part of the National Caregivers Association and will be happy to help. Wilma is the Southern Illinois and Missouri representative to this Association.

Betsy mentioned that the AAA is surveying whether their areas are ready for the aging of their populations. There may be a caregiver module as part of their survey. Wilma thinks this is something that needs to be added if it is not there already. Jan, Wilma, Martha, Betsy and David will meet by phone after Betsy speaks with Rose.

#### OTHER

**Naoko Muramatsu (UIC) is working on a project having to do with home care aides.** They are studying the health problems of home care aides that prevent them from maximizing service to their clients. Focus groups will be held with home care aides. The UIC study is interested in health care issues and falls prevention issues of the home care worker. Part of the pilot project is to identify the opportunities and barriers for problems identified. This is a smaller project of a larger project looking at the health care needs of home care workers. Naoko's contact: 312.413.0485 or naoko@uic.edu.

**David Lindeman will be stepping down** from OASAC to leave for California. If there are persons interested in chairing the committee, let David know. David is following his wife who will become the future president and chief executive officer of the Public Health Institute in Oakland CA. All wish him well and thank him for his work chairing this committee and working with the OASAC full committee.

#### **Post-meeting discussion:**

After the meeting, David Lindeman, Jan Cichowlas, Martha Holstein, and Wilma Schmitz stayed on the line to discuss next steps for a Caregiver Conference. This would be a working conference (not merely a presentation conference) bringing together policy makers, working caregivers themselves, private and public agencies providing home care, and organizations like the Caregiver Alliance.

Martha said we are good at reaching caregivers in the community but not as good at reaching the business community. We need contacts to include the business sector at this conference. Wilma agrees that we must get the private sector to this conference, especially the largest employers of these workers. It is the human resource people in these organizations that get the first line feedback about these workers.

The National Alliance for Caregiving, National Family Caregivers Association, Family Caregiver Alliance (not for profit organization from CA) are three organizations that Wilma recommends working with on this conference. All three are not-for-profit and work on policy. They were instrumental in getting the Family Leave Act passed in Washington D.C.. We need to see how they can help us directly and to introduce us to the private sector contacts. Wilma would be happy to call any of these organizations. This will require some funding. Boeing has a large presence in Chicago and St. Louis; perhaps they could help with funding of the conference. Walgreens should also be contacted.

It was noted that even if the state takes this on as part of their training priorities, this group still needs to take some lead responsibility for making this happen. Wilma is going to volunteer Joy Paeth to take lead responsibility. November is National Family Caregiver Month. We should shoot for a November 2008 conference. Jan will ask Betsy to inquire if Rose (IDOA Training) thinks this is a possibility for November 2008. If so, another conference call should be scheduled to continue planning.

David has a draft proposal from 8/06 with a rough timeline. David will circulate this draft proposal. Jan will talk to Betsy/Rose about state training and report back at the next meeting of the Workforce and Family Caregiver Workgroup, if not before by email.

**Meeting Schedule:**

## Workforce Work Group:

- Monday, 11/19, 11:00 a.m. – Noon (change from 11/12 due to State holiday)
- Monday, 12/10, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

## Full OASAC Meeting:

- Thursday, 11/08, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. IDOA Chicago for video conferencing (Springfield video conference site to be announced).