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## Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

# Workforce and Caregiver Work Group

Date: November 19, 2007, conference call

Attending: David Lindeman (Chair), Janice Cichowlas, Betsy Creamer, Benita Johnson (for Toni Gerencir), Marilou Pierson, Wilma Schmitz, Barb Schwartz, Cathi Sipes, Sarah Stein and Tim Thomas.

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### Summary

David gave an update of the last full OASAC meeting. OASAC Goals were reviewed and they will be submitted to the legislature in record time this year. In terms of this Workgroup, there is keen interest on the part of the IDOA in pushing forward the Caregiver's conference. There was discussion about people transitioning off of this committee, and the need for a replacement for the position of chairman.

There is no further information regarding data collection on caregivers. Darby has not forwarded any information about providers and their health benefits issues. Our goal report lists these items as strong recommendations as a top priority for the State.

### Working Caregivers Conference

On our last call, Wilma Schmitz offered to look into a Working Caregivers Conference and potentially help coordinate it. Wilma stated that she is looking at how other states have had such conferences. She is working with the National Family Caregivers Association. She mentioned a magazine out of Florida called "The Fearless Caregiver". This is a means for us to get in the national spotlight.

David said that the goal of the conference was to engage not only caregivers themselves and the government, but to also involve private sector companies, resulting in a "white paper" with recommendations for the Governor on needed legislative changes. We would like to have a product, not just a discussion (i.e., options/next steps for individual companies). David spoke with the Family Caregiver Alliance who would be happy to provide us with some data or a speaker.

Jan spoke with Jody Martin (training, IDOA) and Rose Lober-Hamilton (IDOA), who plans the annual Governor's Conference on Aging. Rose recommended that we plan our conference as an intensive on the first day of the 2008 conference. This would give us the benefit of rooms already being reserved, as well as an audience. It would be marketed with the program for the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging. David, Wilma and other members of the committee thought this was a good plan. Chicago is the best venue if we are trying to attract private companies. The 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging is scheduled to be held December 10 - 12.

In terms of financing this conference, it could range from in-kind contributions to a budget that would provide for speakers and a technical writer to summarize the action steps from the conference. There is no budget yet but there are possible resources worth exploring.

Jan provided the committee's goals and plans for the conference to Rose at IDOA. If it is tied to the 2008 Governor's Conference, the agenda would be free, space would be available, lodging rooms would already be reserved. David said we could explore sponsorship monies (i.e., National Family Caregiver Association, Family Caregiver Alliance, AARP).

Wilma pointed out that Chicago is teaming with corporate innovators such as Boeing, who supports caregiving. Wilma will check through the Association for connections (i.e., Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). We need a budget to present to potential partners. Jan pointed out that if we hold this as one of the annual intensives that are part of the Governor's Conference on Aging, perhaps many of the costs would be absorbed with the Governor's Conference for 2008. Wilma pointed out that if we work with corporations, our budget to them will have to include how much this intensive would cost if it were freestanding. David will draft a rough budget and send it around to everyone. Jan will get costs from Rose Lober-Hamilton.

Jan stated that IDOA conference staff recommended working with the Chambers of Commerce, or Walgreens as a possible partner like Boeing, etc.

Wilma is willing to be the conference coordinator (and Wilma will ask Joy Paeth to help). David thought that Martha Holstein might be available as a modest advisor. Betsy Creamer was going to link us to the IL Caregiver Advisory Group. Barb Schwartz suggested we include the Caregivers Advisory Committee (i.e., topics of interest, etc.)

David has a link with Work Family Directions (working with large fortune 500 companies). He recommended we try Abbott in Chicago; or national companies such as IBM, Exxon/Mobile (not Chicago-based) who might send representatives or be sponsors. Judy Pressor is the lead contact with Work Family Directions.

John Paul Marosy is a great speaker on working caregivers. He is also involved with National Family Caregivers Foundation. Suzanne Mitz (founder) will be on the today show on Thanksgiving Day to talk about Family Caregiving. She knows folks involved on a corporate level and helped with the Family Medical Leave Act legislation.

David will include the rough draft for the conference that was prepared previously with these minutes. We need to determine if this is an invited conference or an open conference. We want to come up with public/private options for companies to take away from the conference, as well as legislative action needed. David stressed the need to have some "take aways" from the conference.

**Next steps:** Jan and David to circulate background materials; committee members should forward recommendations for people/organizations/businesses to be involved and forward this to Wilma; David will help with connecting the committee with Judy Pressor; Wilma will get in touch with Rose Lober-Hamilton to establish a timeline.

## **Meeting Schedule:**

### Workforce Work Group:

- Monday, 12/10, 11:00 a.m. – noon, by phone conference

### Full OASAC Meeting:

- Wednesday, 12/12, 4:00 p.m., at the Governor's Conference on Aging, Chicago