



JB Pritzker, Governor
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ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
9:30– 11:00 AM

Meeting Held Via Webex

Final Meeting Minutes-Not Formally Approved by Members

<u>Members in Attendance:</u>	<u>Department on Aging staff:</u>	<u>Guests:</u>
Co-Chair Sen. Rachelle Crowe	Director Paula Basta	Sandy Baksys
Co-Chair Rep. Katie Stuart	Chief of Staff Selma D’Souza	Patricia Martan
Sen. Craig Wilcox	Deputy Director Lora McCurdy	Joann Roberts
Cordelia Coppelson	Rhonda Armstead	Marnee Benjamin
Tonya Genovese	Sue DeBoer	Virginia Thomas
Paul Isaac	Samantha Brill	Rick Black
Aimee Isham	Dana Wilkerson	Tricia Rodriguez
Eric Lane	Mike Berkes	Jeanice Yencik
Bill Langheim	Michael Dropka	Jaime Stanford
Lois Moorman	Russ Kemple	Mary Collins
Beth Menz	Terry Haynor	
Kelly Richards	Jeanice McDade	
Gene Seaman	Gloria Simmons	
Ashley Snavely		
Debra Vershelde		
Michelle Weinberg		
Aimee Winebaugh		

Members Unable to Attend

Barbara Eskildsen – Sent a letter
 Lt. Kristopher Tharp – Sent a representative
 Lori Hendren
 Eric Lane
 Amy Brown
 Dawn Wells
 Brian Fengel

Roll call was taken by Sue DeBoer using the Elder Abuse Task Force roll of members as well as the chat section of the WebEx format which allows guests attending for public comment the ability to sign in.

Welcome and Introductions

Sen. Crowe welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting via WebEx during these difficult times and that she is grateful we are able to meet. She offered a special thank you to IDoA including Director

Basta, Sue DeBoer, and Samantha Brill with IDoA for making a productive Task Force. All of their work and efforts are appreciated. Thank you to all members of the Task Force for their participation and education. Sen. Crowe thanked Sen. Bristow and Sen. Wilcox for taking on this subject matter and their leadership in the General Assembly and assuring that our aging population is protected. With the pandemic that we are faced with there are additional hurdles such as isolation that impact our state's aging population. She added her thanks to the public for joining the meeting and for their invaluable feedback, comments, and commitment to the aging population. Rep. Stuart echoed the views of Sen. Crowe and advised that she also appreciates all of the time and effort placed into the Task Force meetings. She added that while this may be the last meeting of the Task Force, the important work of this group will continue and take care of an important part of our population, the elderly. The January 28, 2020 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Goals of SJR 13

Goals from SJR 13 were reviewed. This includes the effectiveness of current elder protective services and laws, examining barriers to prosecution and strategies to increase public awareness of elder abuse and reporting, and studying training resources and best practices in other states. Rep. Stuart advised that we did a really good job of covering these topics in previous meetings, including helpful speakers and especially Ms. Farris from Massachusetts who reviewed their state program.

The fourth goal of SJR 13, Identifying a long-range plan to combat elder abuse, was discussed. Sen. Crowe and Rep. Stuart both put forth legislation, however, with the pandemic these items did not make it into the abbreviated special session. There is opportunity for improvement given today's pandemic especially with isolation and discussing the final report which is due in January. Tonya Genovese provided a summary of what was put together and filed including legislation and rule-making ideas. Ms. Genovese stated that she had worked with a few senate staffers, however nothing was able to go anywhere due to COVID. One item was Home Repair Fraud. Currently, there is the need for the intent to commit fraud to exist at the start of the contract. This will be worked on so that no intent would be needed, it would be based upon the work not being completed. Rep. Stuart shared her bill requiring financial institutions, including Insurance Adjusters and Investment Brokers, be mandated reporters if they witness suspicious activity did make it to committee.

Tricia Rodriguez added other introduced legislation included expanding the definitions of abandonment and home repair fraud and increasing dementia training.

Gene Seaman commented on the Supportive Decision-Making process from the Minnesota report, a tool that promotes an individual who can help guide an elderly person or person with a disability in their decision making. This person would assist in the process of making decisions, such as a financial decision, with the elderly person looking out possible fraudulent situations while having the final say stay with the elder. Rep. Stuart added that this sounded like a possible "bridge" to a power of attorney.

Samantha Brill added that since the session was abbreviated, the Department on Aging's legislative initiatives were unable to go anywhere, which included a bill to require mandated reporters to report suspicious deaths.

Looking at the long-term plan, Sen. Crowe moved the discussion to how can agencies and partners work better together and collaborate more efficiently. Building bridges with stakeholders is helpful and assists in developing comprehensive plans and strategies. Having a contact within the state police for example has helped tremendously.

Bill Langhiem from ISP discussed how they did a collaborative 2-day training with IDPH and IDoA. Looking towards the future, continuing to have conference calls and WebEx calls to keep everyone working together. With nursing homes closed at this time, ISP is preparing for the influx of reports that may result from this. As bad as the COVID situation has been, the positive is that it has brought us together and increased communication about elder abuse and fraud within these facilities. ISP has also given presentations to staff at facilities that provided useful information about what to look for and how to report issues.

Rep. Stuart advised that continuing this communication should be a part of our final report. Joint trainings will be another tool to help with prevention. Since all abuse cannot be prevented, policies and responses are needed when abuse does occur. Sen. Crowe added that both herself and Rep. Stuart are happy to help any agency in any way as we are all partners in combatting elder abuse.

Rep. Stuart discussed the final report and that this is not the end but rather the beginning of the next chapter as we can use this report as a guide as we move forward. While COVID has complicated the timing, the report should be out soon with an ambitious goal of the end of next month. All Task Force members should send their thoughts to Sue DeBoer with an August 5th deadline. Sue has graciously offered to collect this information, which can include legislation, training, ideas, topics collaborative pieces, and thoughts to help build the outline and then the draft report.

Public Comment

Sandy Baksys provided her views on the impact of social isolation. Her two main concerns are reports of abuse need to be taken seriously, investigated competently and stopping the abuse; and reporters of abuse and their expectations. She explained how APS involvement can have situations of isolation and emotional abuse as well as other forms of abuse.

Samantha Brill read a document shared by Barb Eskildsen who was unable to attend the meeting. The document listed services and activities that are in place by the AAAs to help keep the elder population more connected and engaged in their community.

Joann Roberts discussed her views on possible interventions that could be helpful within families, facilities, and the workplace. One concern she mentioned was individuals being denied their civil liberties and their 4th Amendment rights and focusing on elder abuse outside of a facility within families. Police officers, DCFS intake workers, attorneys, judges, healthcare workers, law enforcement could all benefit from additional crisis intervention training.

Marnee Benjamin expressed her views regarding the need to educate elders about abuse, neglect and exploitation to recognize when to report for themselves. She expressed her views on her experiences within the

court system as well as the difficulty of obtaining an order of protection. Ms. Benjamin described the stress she experienced and the positive outcome of peer mentoring.

Mary Collins described her experiences while being a victim of an online dating scam. Thanks to Lt. Tharp and the TRIAD, she survived and now urges support for TRIAD funding so the program can expand.

Rick Black, presenting for the Kasem Foundation, shared his views on financial exploitation and the need for additional attention including the involvement of APS and law enforcement. He read comments from Kerri Kasem that described the final years of her father's life including isolation and exploitation.

Samantha Brill read a letter from Lt. Kristopher Tharp that discussed the importance of the TRIAD as well as working with service providers, listening to the community, and collaborating to expand TRIAD.

Patricia Marton was invited to make public comment and did not reply.

Closing

Rep. Stuart thanked everyone for their public comments and advised that all public comments submitted in writing have been dispersed to the Task Force. She thanked everyone for their participation during this meeting and reminded Task Force members to submit their recommendations to IDoA by August 5th, 2020 so the work on the final report can begin. Rep. Stuart thanked everyone for their attendance.

Sen. Crowe stated that this is not the end of the important work of this Task Force, but the start of where the work begins on this important issue. She thanked IDoA for hosting the online meeting, everyone for all of their information, and looks forward to producing the final report.