

MINUTES
ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE FAIRGROUNDS
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015
9:00 A.M – 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Hosteny, Chair
Phyllis Mitzen, 1st Vice Chair
J. Diane Adams-Alsberry, 2nd Vice Chair
Steve Wolf, Secretary
Betty Martz, Assistant Secretary
Jane Angelis
Charles Crowder
Melvin Grimes
Anthony Frazier
Talat Khan
Betty Martz
Mubarak Mirjat
Dana Rosenzweig
Eugene Verdu

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Naomi Fowler
Ram Gajjela
Paulette Hamlin
Senator Mattie Hunter
Margaret Huyck
Rep. Dwight Kay
Senator Sam McCann
Lee Moriarty
Senator Julie Morrison
Robert O'Connor
Anna Oestreich
Rep. Ron Sandack
Bernarda Wong

VISITORS:

Charlotte Kauffman, IL Dept. of Human Services
Rhonda Clancy, IL Dept. of Public Health
Margaret Niederer,
Doree Vetter, IL Dept. of Veterans Affairs

DEPARTMENT ON AGING STAFF:

Matt Ryan, Chief of Staff
Dennis Miner, Manager/CFO of Division of Finance and Administration
Scott Norton, Manager of the Division of Information Technology
Brad Rightnowar, General Council
Sandy Leith, SHIP Program Director
Robin Morgan, BEAM Unit
Marsha Miller, Division of Community Relations & Outreach
Marcia Walker, Division of Community Relations & Outreach
Alex Burke, Legislative Liaison
Brent Ellis, Assistant Legislative Liaison
Cathy Houghtby, Division of Community Relations & Outreach

SUMMARY

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by John Hosteny, Chairman.

The roll call was taken by John Hosteny, Chairman. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Members, staff and guests at the meeting introduced themselves.

A Motion was made by Jane Angelis to approve officers, in lieu of Anna Oestreich who is the Chair of the Nominating Committee, who was not available.

The Motion was seconded by Anthony Frazier.

Motion carried. John Hosteny remains Chair, Phyllis Mitzen, 1st Vice Chair, J. Diane Adams-Alsberry, 2nd Vice Chair, and Steve Wolf continues as Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Chairman Hosteny requested a motion be made to approve the Minutes from the December 10, 2014, Illinois Council on Aging Meeting.

J. Diane Adams-Alsberry stated that corrections needed to be made on page 6 and page 8 of the previous minutes. Changes were noted by Cathy Houghtby.

Anthony Frazier made a motion approve the minutes, and to dispose of paper minutes and receive them electronically, in honor of Earth Day.

The Motion was seconded by Melvin Grimes.

Motion carried.

Chairman Hosteny asked the Department on Aging Legislative Liaisons, Brent Ellis and Alexander Burke, about how to get the legislative members to attend the meetings. He stated more representation is needed and help is needed with that.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Chairman Hosteny expressed that Dr. Holton was unable to attend due to travel.

Year of the Volunteer:

Jane Angelis spoke briefly on the 2015: Year of the Volunteer. The goal is to celebrate volunteerism, create strong infrastructure to strategically place volunteers and make Illinois a better place to live.

Department Updates:

Scott Norton, Chief Information Officer, updated the council on BIP (Balancing Incentive Program) from an IT perspective. BIP is scheduled to go live in September. The software package for the UAT (Uniform Assessment Tool) is being built by a company on the East coast. This will replace the current assessment tool but is still in the design phase. The tool is currently being used for assessment in other states. \$92M was received from the feds for this project. Pieces of the Aging assessment will have to be added to the core tool. February or March of next year there will be a bigger assessment of the UAT.

IT is working on dozens of software improvements to current programs. Online apps are being built for the CACFP (Child and Adult Day Care Food Program) so they are able to submit billing online. IT is making sure data received is high quality and data requests for different information is coming in daily.

Phyllis Mitzen asked who is working on the UAT and how decisions are being made for the tool. Scott stated interagency RAI tool is being used. Based on answers to certain items, the tool may trigger a different assessment tool. You can only modify 5% but you can add as many items as needed. Aging is requesting the most items to be added.

Phyllis Mitzen asked is there any stakeholder input. Scott stated that Healthcare and Family Services is being pressed and the CCU's will be the major stakeholder.

Will the UAT benefit veteran programs? Scott stated yes, Veterans are included. This tool is the first centralized system the state is building to where there is one source, no more duplicate information. Scott sees promise in this tool. He will address more at the next meeting.

Steve Wolf asked if the UAT will replace the DON. Scott says the DON will go away. Testing is being done for comparability.

Mubarak Mirjat asked about previewing the tool. Scott stated a preview was not available as the tool is still being designed and developed.

Anthony Frazier asked if training was a factor and will it be provided. Scott states there is a training component and it's an important part of the plan. The level of training will depend on the agency. Aging will handle people aged 60+. We need to think about the next step---how do we include Plan of Care for CCU's.

Steve Wolf asked if subsets can be created for what's needed out of the big tool. Scott stated that there are subsets within the tool that are geared toward each agency but extraction of certain data is unavailable and has not been addressed. Will provide updates to the council when available.

Talat Khan inquired about the use of the UAT by substance abuse centers. Scott says that substance abuse and mental health centers will be able to fill out sections of the tool upon referral.

Chairman Hosteny asked if this will save taxpayers money and if this can be used by other agencies. Scott states that is the goal. Everything needs to be built into this (plan of care, billing, etc) and that would ultimately save taxpayers money. Based on credentials the system would be accessible to other agencies.

Anthony Frazier asked in regards to migration of data; what components are being used to safeguard security. Scott says security issues are being worked on. SSL 256 encryption is being used where there is a secure channel between the browser and the user. It is the same kind of encryption used in the banking industry. Social security numbers are encrypted while in the database as well as data in transit. Scott is unsure about the encryption of data at rest.

Brad Rightnowar, General Counsel, introduced himself and noted that as General Counsel he wants his office to be responsive, involved and available. He wants to make sure that information flows from the bottom to the top.

Phyllis Mitzen asked how we keep people informed. Brad responded that Director Holton is clear that relationships need to be built and more networks need to be created between community colleges, park districts, etc. Brad noted by utilizing resources we already have and making them known people can be more informed.

Eugene Verdu suggests looking into communities and modifying the wheel. He noted it's important for us to stay in the realm of the aging network. Need to reach out to other groups for support.

Alexander Burke and Brent Ellis, Legislative Liaisons, updated the council on a Bill that will allow Aging the right to issue grants. It is currently on a 3rd reading.

Dana Rosenzweig asked if the council should be involved in the new system of witness slips and would it be beneficial for the council. Alex noted the system will probably be changed next session due to the influx of slips submitted and witnesses present. The new system would overwhelm readings.

Alexander said department initiatives have to be ready by September. You can call or email him regarding the initiatives. Alex stated he will present updates to the council on bills affecting the agency.

Chairman Hosteny suggested having a quarterly update from the legislative office as well as a fifteen minute phone conference. He also suggested a tip sheet that tells individuals what to do to contact your state representative regarding a bill and what to say when you meet one.

Phyllis Mitzen requests the initiative of the Legislative Liaisons to get the House and Senate reps to the council meetings.

Dennis Miner, Chief Financial Officer, updated the council on the State Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. House Bill 317 and 318 have been passed and signed. The department received a \$21M reduction in funding. Dennis feels the department will be ok and only a few programs were impacted. The RSVP Program was reduced by \$12,400; Foster Grandparents Program \$3400, Long Term Care Program \$5500, Planning

\$173,000 and General Revenue funds \$2.5M. There is a 4% transfer authority and lapsed funds can be moved.

State Fiscal Year 2016 total funds are \$1 Billion \$43 Million. \$95M less than last year. Aging has testified twice on the budget regarding the reductions. The General Revenue is up \$4.6M and federal funds are down. \$1.6M for BIP, \$2.4M for Home Delivered Meals, AoA Long Term Care Systems were reduced \$30,000, Senior HelpLine was increased \$106,000, Ombudsman Program increased \$4.2M. Ombudsman funds will assist in the additional activities, i.e. MCO involvement and community ombudsman. Community Care Capitated Rate \$134M, Community Care Program decreased \$140M, In Home Services decreased \$61M and Income testing \$37.9M.

Due to the raising of the DON score \$28.7M was saved. No one loses services with this increase. Those on the program between the old and new DON (about 9800 people) will be grandfathered in.

\$41M was saved with the Enhanced Rate eliminated. About 33% of those eligible (28,000) are enrolled. The department paid the enhanced rate even if a person wasn't enrolled. With the Affordable Care Act workers will be able to maintain insurance. The agency can still offer insurance but it won't be reimbursed.

Robin Morgan, works in Benefits, Eligibility and Monitoring, and works on the implementation of managed care (Integrated Care Program – ICP) in the department. This initiative started in 2013 and had to be implemented by January 2015. ICP, limited to Medicaid only clients 60 and over, transferred about 3,000 people into the program. Fifty percent of clients are required to be enrolled. Under the MMAI, Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative, 24,000 were expected to enroll but 11,000 opted out and stayed in fee for service. HFS wants to mandate clients enroll into MMAI.

Mubarak Mirjat asked why clients chose to opt out. Robin stated that doctors and providers were encouraging them to. MCO's have their own billing systems and procedures and this may have been discouragement to providers; they would have to learn new processes and therefore they didn't want to participate.

Robin noted that MCO's have a lot to offer. Some offer an extra \$30 for over the counter items, gym memberships, and free transportation to name a few. The department is starting to educate providers on why they shouldn't persuade the clients decision regarding the switch.

Mubarak Mirjat stated that the Governor's Conference needs more doctors, health insurance and health care providers in attendance.

Dana Rosenzweig asked if there are fewer services in MCO due to the capitated rate. Robin stated that some get more, some get less but they must honor our care plans. Transfers keep the same care plan for 180 days.

Phyllis Mitzen stated she would like to see evaluation of the first two years of ICP. Robin stated she would share the U of I evaluation of the ICP.

Sandy Leith, SHIP Director, updated the council on things SHIP is working on. SHIP is the in-between for the clients and the programs. They assist with the gaps of coverage between the client and the companies. Sandy expressed that seniors like MMAI because of the benefits they provide and some don't like it due to some language barriers. CLESE is helping to guide people in the right direction.

Sandy discussed drug plans and how you can go to Medicare.gov and pick a plan according to the drugs you need but there are a lot of glitches that are being worked on and changes should be coming. They are finding that many drugs are being labeled "LA" for limited access in fine print. People are getting the drugs they need for a couple of months and are then unable to get it. This is unfair and has been brought to the Feds attention. If a client is in need of a drug and the pharmacy says they can't get it, then a call should be placed to the Senior HelpLine informing them that a client has an "urgent need" for meds and the HelpLine specialist will contact SHIP immediately for assistance.

Matt Ryan, Chief of Staff, introduced himself to the council as the new Chief of Staff with goals of being transparent, providing state of the art training and more aggressive monitoring of programs in the department. He has an open line of communication. There will be AAA tours and he will let the council know when they are in their area.

Update from Department of Human Services:

Charlotte Kaufman, Division of Mental Health, spoke on the MFP Expansion Project that helps to move individuals out of the nursing home and into the community. There are 13 mental health facilities involved for those who are mentally ill. When a client is identified as having mental issues, approximately 70% who move out, the Division of Mental Health is accessed and facilitates the transition. Co-coordination and collaboration of services is the best help for the individual. IL is second in the country in designation of MFP with persons who have mental illness. There is a commitment to pay housing subsidies for individuals that have transitioned out of the nursing home. Monies are in place until 2018. The program is working to find a way to continue to support those who have transitioned.

Update from Social Security:

Jack Meyers, Public Affairs Division, updated the council on Social Security's online service My Social Security. You can create an account and have access to your earnings record which was no longer being mailed out but SS has restarted the mailing of these again. If you are 25+ and not collecting SS you will get a hard copy every 5 years. Once you create your account online it does take you off the mailing list to receive the hard copy. Eighteen million accounts have been established. Social security partnered with Experian in order to validate who you are. You are able to access income, Medicare info, types of benefits, history of payments, applications for Social Security, Medicare and you can update and change personal information. Community enrollment events are being pushed for people to get signed up.

White House on Aging Conference:

Chairman Hosteny, spoke on the upcoming **2015 White House Conference on Aging**. It will be invitation only. There has been no conference since 2005. The previous conferences were in 1961, 1971, 1981, 1995 and 2005. There are 4 priorities: Healthy Aging, Elder Justice, Securing Access to Services and Retirement, Protecting Elders from Financial Exploitation and ensuring Retirement Security. He noted the need for this National Forum on Aging issues. He stated we need more services but how do we pay for it along with the resources. Chairman also noted this is the 80th Anniversary of Social Security and the 50th Anniversary Medicare and Medicaid.

Updates from Council Members:

Phyllis Mitzen spoke on Livable Communities and being able to access the things we need in our community. AARP has a new tool on its website that will let you know if the things you need are available in your area; i.e. transportation, healthcare, education, walkable streets, affordable housing, clean air and water, etc. Log on to www.liveabilityindex.aarp.org and enter your zip code. This tool was launched 4.20.2015.

Charlie Crowder spoke on the need to create a link between IDOA and the Attorney General regarding financial exploitation after an alleged victim dies. Exploitation is a continuous cycle. Perpetrators are getting away with exploiting multiple seniors. There needs to be follow up. The question was raised regarding if this is something that needs to be done through legislature or can it be done internally. The Director's is working on it.

J. Diane Adams- Alsberry mentioned Age Options is sponsoring a budget briefing by Director Holton.

Phyllis Mitzen reported the Austerity's Impact on Health and Reform meeting in Chicago on May 11, 2015. Health and Medicine will be honoring Phyllis for her service and contributions.

Eugene Verdu spoke briefly on the John Morley Model regarding medicine review; over-testing and loss of senses.

Jane Angelis spoke briefly on the Year of the Volunteer and a need to involve more organizations. She wants to expand awareness of organizations. You can sign up at www.serveillinois.gov.

Melvin Grimes sits on the Board of Directors for WIAAA and is looking forward to opportunities to coordinate with the council and the department.

Chairman Hosteny thanked everyone for attending the meeting and spoke briefly on previous topics covered.

A Motion was made by Chairman Hosteny to adjourn.

Motion was seconded by Melvin Grimes.

Motion carried.