

**Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Aging
Minutes of March 18, 2015 Meeting**

Members present:

Libby Arron, Joan Crawley, Bill Flynn, Brian Ott, MD, Esther Price, Sue Robbio., Rick Ryan,

Guest:

Nicholas Oliver

Members excused:

Susan Adler, Karen Enright, William Finelli

Staff:

Charles Fogarty, DEA Director and Paula Parker, DEA Assistant Director.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rick Ryan at 10:38 AM

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Joan Crawley made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes as submitted, seconded by Bill Flynn. Motion carried unanimously.

Introductions and Discussion:

1. Rick introduced Charles Fogarty, DEA Director, to the Commission members and each member introduced themselves to him, in return. Director Fogarty expressed his familiarity with most members and indicated his knowledge of their work over many years of interactions together in the past. He stated that he will attempt to attend as many meetings as possible.
2. Director Fogarty emphasized that the DEA Director's position was still a 'cabinet level' position. He stated that the "Medicaid Reinvention" efforts represented a "rebalancing" of long term care financing and that the Governor has sanctioned an increase in funding for Meals On Wheels because of its social interaction/supportive value; as well as its obvious nutritional value.
3. Director Fogarty characterized the budget as consisting of policies, programs and people. He indicated that he wants to hear from the commission; from the ground up. He further indicated that he needs us and wants us at the "DEA table".
4. Director Fogarty stated that he is seeking to 'streamline' the grants management aspect of DEA's operations in order to expedite the availability of funds to grantee agencies. Another area he would like to explore is how DEA relates to "younger" seniors; a subset of seniors not using programs that can be 'net contributors' to the system.
5. Joan Crawley expressed our concern for the Division's 'cabinet level' status to be subject to the current governor's discretion; thereby subject to change with each succeeding governor, and reiterated the importance of seeking reinstatement of the 'Division' of Elderly Affairs to a 'Department'. Director indicated that he was willing to bring our concern to the governor.
6. Dr. Ott expressed concern that the 'Alzheimer's State Plan' is being "mothballed" because he heard no reference to it made by Lt. Governor McKee. Director Fogarty assured him that this was not the case and it was still a prominent document; especially with Elizabeth Roberts as EOHHS Director. He suggested that we meet with Lt. Governor McKee to educate him further.
7. Director Fogarty stated the DEA's communication/outreach needs to improve.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Submitted

Rick Ryan, Acting Secretary