

11/16/16

Gov. Commission on Aging

Members in attendance: Corrine Russo, Kyle MacDonald, Erika Finn-Villella, Jim Nyberg, Jennifer Barros, Brian Ott, Carmen Roy, Esther Price, Bill Flynn, Sue Robbio, Nicholas Oliver

Elderly Affairs staff in attendance: Director Charles Fogarty, Meghan Connelly

Agenda Item 1: At 10:06 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, acting-chairman Bill Flynn calls the Commission to order.

Agenda Item 2: Chair calls for approval of minutes from the October 2016 meeting. Kyle MacDonald moves for approval, seconded by Brian Ott. The vote to approve is unanimous.

Agenda Item 3: Director Fogarty presents the DEA monthly report. The membership discusses the following and asks questions of Director Fogarty: Staff; Open Enrollment, Budget & Legislation; UHIP process and impact upon DEA clients; Home care staffing challenges. Chairman Flynn encourages members to call legislators to discuss home care wages and the shortage occurring in Rhode Island.

Agenda Item 4: The Commission moves on the Subcommittee Report and Recommendations. Chairman Flynn and Brian Ott speak about the purpose of the subcommittee. Brian Ott suggests requesting 10 years of data from the Adult Protective Services (APS) Unit. Corrine Russo suggests that the request should shed light on increased case load, as she suggests APS staffing has remained fairly consistent over the last 10 years. Kyle MacDonald suggests the following questions: with a case-load cap of 25, how many people are not being seen? What is the wait time? Is there tracking from when a referral comes in, how long it takes to be triaged, and when the client is seen? Subcommittee might narrow request to 2009-2016, to see what impact staffing might have on handling of cases. Brian Ott suggests that many of these cases are ending up in the ER, which is costing much more than have additional dollars available to DEA to follow-through with clients. Kyle MacDonald brings up similar situation with Housing First, and suggests that hospitals might have capability to provide data on readmission and capture data on excessive use of ER. Chairman Flynn and Brian Ott agree to the subcommittee meeting to digest feedback from DEA and commission members, and will make additional formal request for data directly to Director Fogarty.

Agenda Item 5: Corrine Russo comments that Chairwoman Enright was to be updating the Methods of Operation and sending along to membership. Nicholas Oliver makes a motion to table this item due to Chairwoman Enright's absence. Motion is seconded by Jim Nyberg. Vote to table is unanimous.

Agenda Item 6: Corrine Russo provided a list of Bio-Sketches that Chairwoman Enright had emailed to membership. Jennifer Barros suggested that more bio's had been submitted to Chairwoman since that original list circulated. Members were encouraged to submit bio's to Chairwoman had they not already done so.

Additional Business: Nicholas Oliver suggested that the commission invite Paula Parker to attend the December meeting prior to her retirement. Meghan Connelly commented that Paula might be unavailable, but she would share the invitation.

Adjournment: Nicholas Oliver makes a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jennifer Barros. Vote to adjourn is unanimous.