

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2014

Jordan Conference Room, 11:00 am

Attendees: Chair Brett Seekins, Elizabeth Baillie, William Marshall, Bruce Nelson, June O'Neill, Barbara Page. Excused: Pat Bredenberg

Visitors: None

Staff: Matthew Sturgis

1. Chair Seekins called the meeting to order at 11:05.
2. The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed; motion to accept the minutes made by Barbara Page, seconded by Bruce Nelson, unanimous approval.
3. Chair Seekins introduced "Dementia in Maine", which is a report of the Muskie Institute of Public Policy. This report has many sobering statistics and projections on Dementia and how that is tracking in Maine. There are significant sums expended for care nationally, and on an equal track in Maine, with the projection that this amount will only grow. An additional item of information gleaned from the report is that 2/3 of nursing care residents have dementia.

Bill Marshall commented that he believes the numbers for Maine are under-reported and are probably greater than the report indicates.

Elizabeth Baillie pointed out that the assumption by most of the public is that Medicare takes care of the expense for care; however that is not the case. People often confuse Medicare and Medicaid, which is established when the senior has less than \$10,000 in assets for the last five years.

June O'Neill pointed out that one also needs to be admitted to the hospital when establishing care, not kept in the hospital for observation, which is a significant difference.

Chair Seekins added to the point by further stating that the hospital takes the observation role over admission, for if the patient is admitted, discharged, then admitted again, then the provider hospital is penalized. The system is thoroughly confusing to the end user patients.

Barbara Page asked if the State of Maine's non acceptance of Medicare impact the care? The answer was no, the expansion is for newly eligible not the currently covered population.

June O'Neill pointed out that the SMAA is a great resource for assistance in navigating these issues.

Elizabeth Baillie pointed out the politicians and the news media report out what “could” happen instead of what will happen for different motivations.

4. Future Speakers: Chair Seekins has spoken with St. Albans, and they would like to come and speak in the fall. He indicated that Mr. Harold Pacios is considering the Commission for his public access show, and that the South Portland / Cape Rotary know we would like to have them come and speak.

Barbara Page left a call with Mark Flemming from the Lion’s Club, but has yet to get a call back, and she has also spoken with her contacts at Q97.9.

June O’Neill has spoken with Southern Maine Agency on Aging, and they are interested, and would like to come after the public forum. June felt that it would be better if they came before, and that was also the sentiment of the Commission. Here contact there is Caitlyn Blackstone.

Elizabeth Baillie reported that St. Maximillian and St. Bartholomew would both love to come when they are available.

Chair Seekins also reported that Cape Elizabeth Community Services will be the speakers at the next meeting.

5. Marketing Plan for Public Info session.

The Commission will look to provide inserts for the Cape Courier, Current, Forecaster, and in Church bulletins.

Also the thought was to contact the Rotary and Lion’s Club and have them advertise through their members and at their meals.

There was some discussion as to the best method for drawing attendees.

Elizabeth Baillie commented that inserts seem to be effective.

The comment was made that CVS, IGA, stores at Millcreek, The Buzz, the transfer station; all could put up flyers and a sign up at the transfer station. Maybe have the high school senior to senior program design the flyers.

6. What will the event be called?
The event in October needs to have a name, possibly the Senior Citizen Summit, other names will be considered.

A speaker will be needed to help draw people. Chair Seekins will reach out to Senator Angus King.

There was some discussion related to the speaker and what the topic may be. There was consensus that the desired speaker lineup would be to have Harold Pacios provide the introductory speaking and then Senator King as the keynote.

The question was also asked as to what the desired outcome was to be from the event. There was consensus by the Commission that there will be four segments:

- a. Why we are here, what the Commission is doing.
- b. Speaker segment of the meeting.
- c. Active survey with clickers from GPCOG.
- d. Raffle / Drawing at the end.

There will also need to be questions for the attendees, such as what services do you need, what concerns do they have, and what are the care needs out there.

Elizabeth Baillie commented that we should reach out to John Hennessy to get survey questions. Chair Seekins will reach out to him.

7. Future Speakers:

Senator Rebecca Millett, Representative Monaghan-Derrig, the Iris Network, SMAA, Volunteers of America, and Mary Mayhew, DHHS Commissioner are all lined up as future speakers.

8. Elizabeth Baillie extended Paula Banks' regrets for not being able to attend due to illness. She then went on to speak about Ms. Banks, stating she is a Certified Geriatric Care Manager, Social Worker, has worked for Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital. Ms. Banks is extremely well versed on who is who in medical, mental health, and the gerontology fields.

Ms. Banks started her own business based on need for home care services. She identified that there are different levels of help needed: both medical and non-medical. The difference between the two being that medical is the help prescribed by the doctors, while non-medical is private pay assistance to supplement and then also be there when the services time out.

When the issues seniors face grow beyond what families can navigate for geriatric care, Ms. Banks stepped into the void to provide that help. Geriatric Care Management is a specific care area. Not inexpensive, this care can range at \$100 to \$150 per hour. Ms. Banks can also help in managing care and sorting out issues related to care for elders. Many people also have long term care insurance, but are unaware of how to access that coverage. Often nothing happens until the level of care needed has reached dire circumstances.

Chair Seekins and the Commission thanked Elizabeth for providing her summarization and expressed their wish for Ms. Banks to get well soon.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be July 8, 2014 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.