



**Department for
the Aging**

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SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

2 Lafayette Street 7th Floor

Janet Sainer Conference room

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Members Present:

Michael Adams (represented by Catherine Thurston), Isabel Ching, Doralina Colón, David Gillcrist, Claire Hall, Gladys Joyner, Evelyn Laureano, Hattie Lucas, Marcia Stein, Eartha Thompson-Washington, Gloria Lind Vanterpool, Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Doris Williams (13)

Members Absent:

Carol Dunn, Jennifer Jones Austin, Katherine Martinez, Mary Mayer, Zamira Setaro, Nancy Wackstein (6)

DFTA Staff Present:

Commissioner Donna Corrado, Verna Arthur, Michael Bosnick, Steven Foo, Jon Minners, Eileen Mullarkey, Caryn Resnick, Karen Taylor, Jennine Ventura, Joy Wang, Linda Whitaker, Fran Winter (12)

PROCEEDINGS

Doris Williams, co-chair of the Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. A motion was passed and seconded to accept the June 5, 2014 minutes.

Commissioner's Report:

The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members that:

- DFTA has been working very hard, revitalizing initiatives that were begun by the previous Administration;
- DFTA has received additional funding from Mayor de Blasio for case management agencies to assist in increasing their staff and reducing their caseloads;
- DFTA has met with Managed Long Term Care programs on issues surrounding social adult day care;
- Based on today's climate, which is healthcare driven, DFTA should look at becoming more of a healthcare related agency;
- The Mayor has launched a program with City agencies to look at NYCHA's 15 developments that have the highest incidence of crime, and identify ways to increase safety at those developments; and
- Strong advocacy is needed for legislation on the Federal, State and City levels to not only address research, but also to fund programs for family caregivers and people with Alzheimer's.

Catherine Thurston reported that SAGE is the beneficiary of \$1.5 million from the LGBT Caucus of the City Council to expand innovative senior center models in four Boroughs (Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island, and Queens). Queens Community House will maintain its presence in the LGBT community as it has for the past 10 years. The current LGBT senior center is located in Chelsea in Manhattan.

Catherine also reported that SAGE will be partnering with two LGBT organizations in Brooklyn (Brooklyn Community Pride Center in MetroTech and the Griot Circle). Griot Circle's mission is to work with older LGBT persons of color in the Caribbean and African American communities. In addition, Catherine stated that SAGE, in collaboration with Hebrew Home of Riverdale, was awarded DOH funding to open a Social Adult Day Program. This will be a pilot program that enrolls MLTC and Medicaid eligible clients.

Linda Whitaker notified members that we are in the midst of the coastal storm season and everyone should update their go-bags. Have your emergency contacts, list of medications, and supplies up to date. Know your meeting place, and listen to radio and television for updated information. One should also help family, friends, and neighbors prepare an emergency plan. When the warning is issued to evacuate, you must EVACUATE. The Emergency Preparedness Unit is available to make presentations.

Fran Winter pointed out that the Mayor convened several city agencies to look at the NYCHA developments from a structural and physical standpoint. Fifteen developments were identified as high risk. DFTA received funding to expand its Grandparents Resource Center to work in the 15 developments. GRC holds support groups for grandparents, as well as offers resources and classes to the grandparents. DFTA will be hiring social workers to fill positions for these programs.

Presentation

Michael Bosnick - Annual Plan Summary and Managed Long-Term Care

Annual Plan Summary (APS). The demographic section of the report shows the continuing major trends in the older New York City population, including substantial numbers of “younger old” people due to many members of the boomer generation reaching age 60. The increasing number of very old is due in part to increasing longevity, and the continuing substantial number of older people of lower income. These trends point to the need for the continuation of DFTA’s basic programming to deal with issues such as social isolation, services for the frail elderly, nutrition programs for good health, programs to combat lack of income to purchase food, as well as special initiatives such as expanded oral care and mental health programming.

Managed Long-Term Care Companies (MLTCs). DFTA is working to build linkages between MLTCs and aging services providers, so that MLTC consumers can be referred for invaluable senior center, home-delivered meal and case management services. While aging services providers would receive reimbursement from the MLTCs for offering these services to the MLTC consumers, DFTA is currently consulting with the New York City Law Department to determine the latitude it has to help provide technical support to aging services providers in order to ensure successful service contracts with MLTCs.

Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP). Through the New York State Medicaid reform effort, certain hospitals have been given grants by the New York State Department of Health to prepare proposals for working with community based organizations to deliver coordinated services to improve the quality of care offered within the catchment areas served by the hospitals, while controlling the costs of those services. DFTA has been invited to be a part of HHC and Medisys DSRIP proposals, which are due to the State on December 16 for an April 2015 implementation. These two hospital systems are planning for DFTA to serve as a central entity for coordinating the aging services work that providers would offer as part of the community-based network. DFTA sees DSRIP as a model that could be critical to the future of aging services by demonstrating the integral importance of the aging network to the overall provision of successful health care to New Yorkers, and thereby preventing unnecessary hospital and nursing home admissions and readmissions.

Eileen Mullarkey reported that an Elder Abuse RFP is slated to be released this October. This RFP is expected to provide core services beyond case assistance, referrals and counseling. DFTA will be seeking providers who have language capabilities and are culturally appropriate to serve the entire community.

Isabel Ching mentioned that Hamilton-Madison House is excited that DFTA has expressed interest in working closely with MLTCs, and they would like to explore this more with DFTA. HMH has been running a social adult day program for the past 10 years and found it difficult to incorporate a social adult day care into an existing senior center, with regard to contributions. Staff and volunteers screen seniors to determine if seniors should donate for lunch and other activities.

As Isabel discussed, by relocating its SADS program, HMH was able to reframe their outreach and expand the program to include all seniors, including seniors with early onset dementia and Alzheimer's and seniors who are frail. This program is known as the *Hybrid Social Adult Day Open Model Program*. Funding for this program is received from foundations, MLTC organizations, government discretionary funds and donations. Within a six-month period, there was an increase in participants from 10 to 45 per day. The goal is to accommodate approximately 70 seniors by early 2015.

Caryn Resnick stated that the *Bill Payer Program*, a pilot program of AARP, is now run by CSCS. This program helps people with cognitive difficulties through trained professionals and volunteers. Seniors receive help writing checks and paying their bills. It is highly effective, but not well funded. It is the hope to incorporate it into the MLTC case management services.

Fran Winter continued from Caryn, stating that the Bill Payer Program will be added to the MLTC portfolio, a significant reach to case management clients. Volunteers are trained to provide one-on-one in-home assessments to clients. Bill payers visit the clients' homes, ensure that clients pay their bills, and assist in setting up a plan and budget for clients, as well as provide follow-up as needed. The work of bill payers is reviewed on a regular basis. Checks are done to confirm bills are paid and statements are examined to see if any out of the ordinary activities have transpired in clients' accounts. The one-on-one assessment is also an opportunity for socialization for the clients. The Commissioner informed members that the Bill Payer Program will be administered in house.

Announcements:

- **Hattie Lucas** announced that the NYPD and the Bronx Clergy launched a program entitled *Grandmothers' Love: Love over Violence* in the Bronx. This program provides a forum for grandmothers raising grandchildren to get together once a month to discuss issues related to raising grandchildren. This program was piloted in Brooklyn, and has now expanded throughout the other four boroughs. At the Bronx launching in September, more than 60 grandmothers were in attendance.
- **Caryn Resnick** announced that DFTA, in partnership with NYC Service, has been given funding to hire a volunteer coordinator in-house to coordinate and develop a centralized training program for organizations that use volunteers. This program will focus on what is required to train volunteers, liabilities issues, etc.
- September 22 is Falls Prevention Day. DFTA and DOHMH co-chair the Falls Prevention Collation and are collaborating on a series of events taking place at senior centers citywide.
- DFTA is planning a forum on *Food Insecurity among Older Adults*. This forum will be in conjunction with the State Society on Aging. The conference is scheduled for October 24.
- **Evelyn Laureano** commended DFTA's Planning Unit for a great job done on the Annual Plan Summary. She distributed copies to her social work students as required reading.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45 am.