

VAA Stakeholders Large Group Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2009 from 3-4pm
William Mitchell College of Law, Room 125

Members Present: Iris Freeman (Wm. Mitchell), Kevin Hansen (ECRA), Ashley Helgason (Wm. Mitchell), John Simshauser (Wm. Mitchell), Jane Ochrymowycz (Alz. Assoc.), Deb Siebenaler (DHS – AAPS), Heidi Holste (AARP), Carmen Castaneda (Hennepin Co. APS), Lynda Olson (Ramsey Co. APS), Roberta Opheim (MH/DD Ombudsman), Darrell Shreve (Aging Services), Mark Wandersee (ECRA), Arlene Wegener (MH/DD Ombudsman), Ben Rosene (Ramsey Co. Atty.), Deb Holtz (LTC Ombudsman), Jennifer Alexander (Citizen), Barb Doherty (MNALL), Tom Skarohlid (DHS – DSD), Anita Raymond (VOA – MN), Deb Tulloch (Washington Co. APS), Ann Bebeau (St. Paul PD), Maura McNellis-Kubat (DHS – Licensing), Amy Sweasy (Hennepin Co. Atty.), Jennifer Kirchen (DHS – AAPS)

- Welcome and Introductions

- Legislative Update: Track Team

- try to meet with as many Representatives/Senators ahead of a hearing in their committee
- lots of committees, lots of Legislators to meet (tableau of this group to meet with people)
- 53 Representatives, 15 Senators, 2 Committee Administrators, a Partridge in a Pear Tree
- 9 committee hearings in the House, 5 hearings in the Senate, before the floor
- removing cost provisions (working with DHS – AAPS (Deb Siebenaler) and DHS – Health Care (Kim Carolan and Angela Urbanek) to be heard in some committees)
 - being heard in finance divisions to remove sections with fiscal implications
 - still waiting to go to Full Finance in both the House and the Senate
- period of intense nagging (trying to have the Bills moved along)
- lots of support in the committees; amendments to clarify issues by our group working with other outside groups/agencies/persons (unanimous votes in the hearings so far)
- prepping the two Chief Authors for any questions that may come from the floor
 - both are Committee Chairs that work hard on many bills each session
- moving the Bill along on multiple tracks
 - separately and part of Omnibus bills as possible
- many thanks to those who've testified on behalf of this Bill
 - Phil Carruthers, Carmen Castaneda, Ann Bebeau, Darrell Shreve, Sandra Anderson, Jane Ochrymowycz, Jennifer Wright, Deb Holtz, Deb Siebenaler, Kevin Hansen, and Iris Freeman

- Letters of Support

- sent directly to the Chief Authors or to Iris/Kevin to deliver
- keeping the pressure on despite waiting to be heard in the two remaining committees
- membership organizations having members call their own state lawmakers (pressure)

- The Future: The World of Tomorrow
 - PALs group getting the message out to various communities about changes
 - Commitment to this process again by previous stakeholders
 - Level of interest to start talks with more issues
 - Rekindling the 10 subcommittees potentially?

- Next Steps and Ongoing Issues to Discuss
 - Public relations campaign
 - Potential perpetrators to know there are new laws in effect (let the public know of the consequences for certain actions, rather than catching them unaware)
 - The Federal Elder Justice Act has been reintroduced in the U.S. Congress
 - House author: Oberstar
 - Senate authors: (Klobuchar, maybe, if she can be persuaded?)
 - Criminal Neglect Statute: Felony level penalty
 - previously, consensus on this issue wasn't feasible
 - Criminal Law Subcommittee would like to do more work (Sex Offender Registration Law, assault against vulnerable adults excluded, registration of perpetrators)
 - gross misdemeanor violation from Minn. Stat. 244 is excepted under this
 - Follow-up on the CEP situation, however it transpires
 - Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Review Panel
 - Reviewing non-priority item issues from this particular round of suggestions
 - Reporting/response system affected by state/county level cuts in resources
 - system reform and analysis of parts of systems and relevant financing concerns
 - Tracking of alleged perpetrators when fired from or leaving a facility (any needed follow-up)
 - the facility does what it can to remove the perpetrator, but there may be no investigation, and that individual is free to find a position somewhere else
 - labor unions doing more investigations than the state may be able to do
 - Retaliation against victims or staff members (who report or help with investigations)
 - ensuring there are no whistleblower actions
 - Educational component (brainstorm some best practices which encompass rural and metro concerns, and determine best method(s) to distribute throughout the state
 - Exploring methods/opportunities to get volunteers to help various agencies out to provide an impact in several communities
 - Elders and vulnerable adults as victims of contractor fraud (paper from Ann Bebeau)
 - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE/SARS Nurses) aren't trained to deal with elders or vulnerable adults when investigating allegations against vulnerable adults
 - working on training of how to interview victims and talk to family members (using language that's non-offensive, believing a report despite cognitive impairment)
 - developing best practices for these procedures
 - including judges who hear appeals on these decisions
 - Put some standards/protocols in place to help counties across the state when assembling high-functioning Multidisciplinary Teams (per Minn. Stat. 626.5571)

- Shut down facilities (DHS rightfully pulling funding away) ... report from an auditor that DHS should take over investigations of unlicensed PCA service providers (or organizations)
 - if the alleged perpetrator is convicted or there is a substantiation of abuse, they're not prevented from going on elsewhere to provide care (there's no regulation and this is a crisis for these individuals who need care)
 - no mandate for a relocation effort (like when someone is discharged)
 - there is expansion in this area for moving toward this model of services
- Looking at all of the bills that are out there and what have the new bills that have passed done to the status and quality of life for vulnerable adults (also looking at those things which have been introduced, which have fiscal notes, and have failed but are good ideas)
- Re-examining what fell upon the cutting room floor, pulling some of that back
- DHS creating an online training module for mandated reporters (to help train people)

- Public Awareness Leaders (PALs) Group Update
 - about a box of posters left, let Mark know if you need more to distribute
 - do we need to order more? funding sources for doing this? PALs Group looking at this
 - lots of pocket cards left, please let Mark know if you want to distribute some to the public
 - if anyone wants to be involved with the PALs meeting, contact Kevin (khansen@eldercarerights.org) or Mark (mwandersee@eldercarerights.org) with your email
 - 1:30-2:30pm on April 28 at the Capitol Rotunda: Elder Services Rally
 - the PALs will meet immediately following this rally
 - recognition event in June to celebrate the laws that we hopefully will pass this session
 - evening of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15
 - email Jennifer Kirchen (jennifer.kirchen@state.mn.us) with what an organization may be doing to work overall and collaborate for success
 - MNALL, DHS, the PALs Group, Mayor's Advisory Council (Night Out)
 - perhaps getting a Mayoral proclamation (see below link for an example) (http://www.lemoore.com/agendas/2008/jun17/data/6_17_item_3.pdf)
 - contacting legislative leadership to help get this accomplished (and the Governor's

- Wrapping Up
 - next meetings:
 - Legislative Track Team: Every Friday at 1:30pm in the SOB Cafeteria
 - PALs Group: 2:30pm on April 28 after the Rally in the Rotunda
 - next Large Group meeting: TBA, as needed

- Legislative Audit
 - Sweeney's back patio (fireplaces and heaters going)