

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2016

State House, Montpelier, VT

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Peter Cobb, Jim Coutts, Nancy Metz, Gini Milkey, Diane Novak, John Pierce, Steve Pouliot, Beth Stern

Guests: Mary Hayden, Jackie Majoros

State Employees: Camille George

Motion to Approve Minutes: January minutes:

Approved: Peter Cobb

Seconded: Jim Coutts

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The DAIL Advisory Board held an abbreviated meeting in order to allow members to attend the House Human Services Committee's special session: Living Longer, Living Well: Challenges and Opportunities Today and Tomorrow.

In Robert Borden's absence, Beth Stern volunteered to chair the meeting. Robert and Commissioner Hutt sent their regrets.

I. Reactions and Thoughts on House Human Services Committee's Session: Living Longer, Living Well: Challenges and Opportunities Today and Tomorrow

The Advisory Board members thanked and congratulated Jackie Majoros and the work group that worked with Representative Pugh, Chair of the Committee, to plan this session.

Kinship Care: The contribution of kinship caregivers is so often underestimated. It is important to note the challenges that they face. Kinship caregivers tend to be older and from a lower income bracket. They also receive less supports. It was concerning to hear of the misinformation that was provided to a caregiver who spoke at the session. Staff from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) was present and she will be following up on this.

Family Caregiver: The Board discussed the challenges of family caregiving. During the session a family caregiver was there, with large amounts of paperwork, to share her challenges of taking care of her parents. She spoke of the difficulties of recruiting and retaining good workers. The Advisory

Board members noted that Home Health LNA's are not able to provide physical assistance for bathing, lifting and other tasks. Peter Cobb offered to follow up on this to see if this is a training issue or something else.

There was a discussion of caregivers in general. The Board wondered if someday family caregivers would be offered the same ladder training program that was described by the person from the VNA of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties for their caregivers.

Representative Diane Lanpher and Senator Michael Sirotkin have expressed in interest in chairing/co-chairing a legislative caucus on aging to look at the challenges and opportunities that exist. Principles that would guide the caucus have been put together and are being circulated. The work group that planned this morning's session will help support the development of this caucus. The fact that the House Human Services Committee devoted 3 hours to this topic and was so attentive was very impressive and encouraging.

Mature Work Force Symposium Follow Up: The Vermont Department of Human Resources (DHR) was to play a lead role in promoting practices to support mature workers. Members noted that with a union contract, it may be challenging to do this. It was also noted that there is a forward movement to recognize employers who support mature workers. A future topic for the Advisory Board was suggested to have DHR and/or representatives from the union come to discuss this topic. On one hand, we know there are certain groups of workers (i.e. direct care workers) where there are clear shortages, but at the same time, there are older Vermonters looking for work. The need to provide training and skill development around technology is clear. Area technology centers may be a resource for these trainings. Previous offerings of this type of trainings have not been well attended in the past. It would be helpful to know what kept people from attending – timing, location, transportation needs – and address these issues. There is a special training for New Americans in the caregiving field; perhaps this could be replicated around the state.

II. Brief Updates

Deputy Commissioner George provided brief updates on the SFY16 Budget Adjustment (BAA) request and the SFY17 Proposed Budget. Testimony on SFY17 Proposed Budget took place last week in the House Human Services and House Appropriations. The BAA appears to be moving along. There were a number of questions posed around the DAIL budget and programs. Overall testimony went well. Updates on various aspects of the DAIL Proposed Budget and other legislation:

- There is legislation proposed relating to rates of home and community-based services (HCBS) providers. Nursing homes have received regular rate increases, whereas the HCBS have not. Nursing home rates may have gone up due to the higher acuity of people being served, which is also true of people receiving HCBS.
- There is testimony being taken today in Senate Finance regarding a bill that proposes to provide a tax credit for making a house safe and accessible.

- This afternoon is also Advocates Day, where providers and advocates have the opportunity to give testimony about the budget. Additional opportunities are scheduled as well.

The Waterbury move update: All moves for DAIL have been completed. It is hoped that the building will help support state employees to collaborate and work more efficiently and more effectively in providing services to people served by the Agency of Human Services.

Meeting was adjourned