

Minutes
South Carolina Advisory Council on Aging
December 3, 2012

The December 3, 2012 meeting of the SC Advisory Council on Aging was called to order by Dr. James Bouknight, Chairman, at 10:00 AM in the Large Conference Room at the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

Members Present: Dr. James Bouknight, Thomas Sweeny, Shelby Phillips, Moye Graham, Lamar Bailes, Norma Curtis, Dr. Mary Tepper and Timothy Davis.

Members Not Present: Margaret Brackett, Kay Maxwell, Patricia Jones, Mary Henry and Dr. Toney Graham.

Lt. Governor's Office Staff Present: Debbie Hammond.

Others Present: Dr. Juliet Glover

Office on Aging Staff Present: Director Tony Kester, Assistant Deputy Director Anne Wolf (*for Denise Rivers*), Cat Angus (*for Dale Watson*), Deputy Director Susan Theriot, Christie Linguard and Gerry Dickinson.

Dr. Bouknight read the Freedom of Information Pledge: *"This body's official minutes will indicate that this meeting is in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act's mandate that the public be notified when the public's business is being done, and that this facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities, and special accommodations could have been provided if requested in advance."*

Approval of Minutes: Norma Curtis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Thomas Sweeny seconded the motion. The minutes from August 28, 2012 were approved.

Special Guests: Dr. Bouknight introduced Dr. Juliet Glover as one of his colleagues. He also introduced Cat Angus and Anne Wolf and thanked them both for sitting in for Dale Watson and Denise Rivers, respectively.

Chief of Staff: Debbie Hammond commenced by talking about the *Face of Aging Tour*. Something new was learned at each facility. A constant challenge in all 10 regions for the senior population is transportation. The options and choices for seniors are very few. With this tour, the Lt. Governor has gotten an opportunity to learn what is out there and now he wants to develop a report so that he can present it to the legislators. We need to incorporate short- and long-term goals for seniors in this state. We have had some of the best experts give the Lt. Governor advice. Lamar Bailes stated that the legislators are worried only about Medicaid. And Debbie pointed out that Medicaid is the biggest misconception, especially when it comes to the nursing home. We can serve a senior for \$1200/year if they chose to stay home versus paying for a Medicaid bed in a nursing home at a rate of \$50,000/year. Timothy Davis added that seniors with private pay do not receive a lot of resources that they should in order to keep them in their homes.

Debbie reiterated that we have to create more options for seniors. It is going to take a lot but we have to find a way to weave the fabric. The senior population will soon double. We need a broad plan and good practices need to be shared. Tom Sweeny asked how do we create a sense of urgency to the legislators. The Lt. Governor's approach is to bring awareness of the issues and needs first. He has a lot of integrity and somehow he needs to hit home with the legislators about what is needed now in order to provide for the doubling senior population for years to come. Debbie urged all of the members present to contact her if they have any ideas they want to share.

Director, Office on Aging: Tony Kester added that Lt. Governor McConnell is like a vacuum cleaner; he just sucks everything up. At each forum presentation, he is adding and updating his talking points. Medicaid gets the attention because that is all they know. We need to begin using Medicaid dollars to serve non-Medicaid clients. We have to maintain and spend along the way or be forced to spend lots of money in a crisis. (Debbie pointed out two articles from the Lt. Governor that has been published, one in the Senior Guide and the other in the Living Senior magazine). The Lt. Governor also plans to have some of these issues on his television show in January. He has also been talking to the various Clubs in each region and his next stop is to hit some of the businesses. He has also talked with the Electric Co-op.

Dr. Bouknight informed Debbie that all members of this Board are willing to meet with the Lt. Governor at any time. The Lt. Governor wants each member's help in filling the vacancies on this Board with really good people.

Dr. Mary Tepper: Dr. Tepper presented everyone with a package of information to include literature as well as a toothbrush, toothpaste, candy, etc. She then passed out her PowerPoint dental presentation on Access to Care, Dental Familiarization and Oral Hygiene Updates. The presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes.

The Chairman then called for Subcommittee Reports

The Long Range Planning Subcommittee did not submit a report.

Public Information and Education Subcommittee: Mrs. Curtis noted that Dr. Mary Tepper's presentation was a part of their report.

Public/Private Partnerships: Mr. Sweeny stated that he wanted it on record that seniors have no money. We have to educate seniors about reverse mortgages.

Member Roundtable:

Debbie showed the members present the relocation bags for facility closings. The rolling duffel bag and its contents were shared with everyone. The Electric Co-op donated fifty (50) bags to the LGOA for facility closings; this will be an annual donation.

Mr. Sweeny suggested that someone contact the Lance company. They give their out of date crackers to non-profits.

Mr. Davis talked about the Healing Properties non-profit. They own thirty-six (36) homes that they allow disabled homeless people or people with AIDS the opportunity to live in. Mike Burgess comes down from Rock Hill to work on these homes. We should be able to get volunteers right here in Columbia to do something like this.

Ms. Phillips informed everyone present that the Coca Cola Company will deliver tin tubs of coke. May is ice cream month and Pet will deliver ice cream to senior centers free. She also noted that South Carolina has an activity association where they share arts and crafts. The annual meeting will be in Florence this March.

Mr. Davis also talked about the South Carolina Primary Healthcare Association. He feels that this is one of the most under advertised health care association South Carolina and yet they have their own pharmacy. They are the closest thing to a national healthcare program for the State of South Carolina.

(Debbie asked that both websites, South Carolina Primary Healthcare Association and the South Carolina Activity Professional Association, be sent to her as soon as possible).

Tony Kester presented Mr. Tom Sweeny with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service and dedication to the South Carolina Advisory Council on Aging. Mr. Sweeny thanked everyone and stated that he will still be around in Charleston.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2013 at 10:00AM (Executive Conference Room at the Tower on Gervais).

2013 Meeting Dates: March 6th, June 5th, September 4th and December 4th.

With business concluded, Chairman Dr. James Bouknight adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM (Minutes recorded by Christie Linguard on December 3, 2012).