

Amended MINUTES
New Hampshire State Commission on Aging
Monday, November 18, 2019
10:00 a.m.-noon
Legislative Office Building 205, Concord, NH

Present: Rep. Polly Campion, Chair; Ken Berlin, Vice Chair; Roberta Berner, Clerk; Rep. James MacKay; Richard Lavers, DES; Wendi Aultman, DHHS; Janet Weeks, DOL; Patrick Herlihy, DOT; Susan Buxton, Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Perry Plummer, DOS; Sunny Mulligan Shea, DOJ; Lynn Lippitt, NH Housing Finance Authority; Appointed by the Governor: Rep. Harry Viens, Daniel Marcek, Pamela Jolivette, Susan Emerson, Carol Stamatakis, Susan Abrami, Kristi St. Laurent, Suzanne Demers, Susan Nolan, and John Kennedy; Susan Ruka and Kathy Baldrige (by phone).
Guests: Jennifer Rabalais, Co-Director, Center on Aging and Community Living (CACL), University of New Hampshire, and Cheryl Steinberg, Director, Senior Law Project, New Hampshire Legal Assistance; 14 members of the public.

Absent: Sen. Ruth Ward, Mark Frank

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Polly Campion welcomed the Commission and guests and asked that Commission members introduce themselves and briefly update the group about relevant activities.

Among updates were the following:

- Wendi Aultman recently attended the Alliance for Healthy Aging (AHA)-Center on Aging and Community Living (CACL) conference and served on a panel that discussed the role of the government in aging.
- Richard Lavers said that the November 7 DES job fair targeting experienced workers (age 55+) attracted more than 300 job seekers and 100 employers. At least 60 interviews were scheduled as a result of the job fair.
- Patrick Herlihy said that the DOT had received five grant applications for 5310 capital projects. The Federal Transit Administration 5310 program supports transportation projects for older adults and those with disabilities.
- Ken Berlin attended the Manchester Council on Aging monthly meeting where the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services discussed the high level of self-neglect and abuse, especially among a growing population of homeless older adults.
- Dan Marcek asked if the Commission could consider creating a subcommittee to address issues of technology and aging.
- Kristi St. Laurent mentioned an upcoming meeting of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (November 21, 5-7 p.m., St. Anselm College) to address success stories in senior housing.

II. Approve Minutes of October 21, 2019

Rep. MacKay made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lynn Lippitt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Work of Commission Subcommittees

- **Hiring Subcommittee: Ken Berlin**

Minutes from the Subcommittee meeting on November 5 were circulated to the Commission. The Subcommittee has scheduled interviews with selected candidates on Tuesday, November 26. Follow-up interviews will be held with the entire Commission. Ken Berlin thanked Richard Lavers for sending helpful initial questions for the interviews. Rep. MacKay thanked the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for its speedy assistance creating and posting the job description and for providing the assistance of senior agency representatives. Susan Nolan asked for clarification of the salary range. Rep. Champion explained that external candidates' ranges would go from around \$66,000 to \$85,000; internal candidates' ranges include all steps in the category and go up to around \$99,000. Perry Plummer asked how many interviews were to be conducted on Tuesday. Ken responded that two were scheduled, but that additional resumes have come in since those initial interviews were scheduled. Rep. Champion added that we have had a good pool of candidates.

- **Space and Logistics Subcommittee: Polly Champion**

DAS has located an office for the Commission Executive Director in the Dolloff Building in the State Office Park off of Pleasant Street in Concord. The space will be shared with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and other state DHHS staff. There is a conference room available on the floor. The office is anticipated to be available for move-in in January.

IV. NH Alliance for Healthy Aging: Presentation by Jennifer Rabalais and Cheryl Steinberg

The NH Alliance for Healthy Aging (AHA) is a statewide coalition of more than 300 representatives of 190 groups focused on the health and well-being of older people in New Hampshire. NH AHA works to promote its shared vision to create communities in New Hampshire that advance culture, policies and services which support older adults and their families. NH Legal Assistance serves as the lead agency for AHA's advocacy efforts.

Hand-outs included a PowerPoint presentation—NH Alliance for Healthy Aging: Creating Communities that Work for All Ages; Opportunities Ahead: Advocacy Priorities 2018-2023; and the Healthy Aging Data Report Highlights from New Hampshire 2019, research and analysis by the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Gerontology Institute with funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

The PowerPoint presentation included information on collective impact, underpinning AHA's formation and work; the planning for and implementation of AHA from 2014 to 2016; the vision for AHA's future work; and AHA's strategic

structure. Jennifer Rabalais discussed the concept of “age-friendly communities,” a concept also embraced by AARP and the World Health Organization. She also discussed AHA’s work on re-framing aging, work in alignment with the research-driven efforts of The Framework Institute.

Jennifer then discussed AHA’s strategic priority areas:

- *Caregiving* with strategies and workplans, including specifically—
 - An upcoming Forum on the Future on December 6 with the state human resources organization and the Business and Industry Association;
 - Partnering with AARP-NH to focus on the specific challenges small businesses face in providing caregiver-friendly workplaces;
 - Partnering with ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Centers to increase caregiver self-identification and awareness of resources;
 - Efforts to reach medical providers through the NH Medical Society.
- *Transportation*, including specifically—
 - An online mapping program of all volunteer driver programs in the state based on community of service scheduled to go live on the AHA website by the end of November.
- *Workforce* to improve the availability of quality health-care and social service direct care workforce, including—
 - A partnership with the Endowment for Health and NH Public Television to screen the documentary, “Call to Care”;
 - Supporting a DHHS initiative to inventory resources across the state.
- *Zoning* to promote affordable, accessible housing options, including—
 - Identification of best practices for developing and implementing a model ordinance for age-friendly communities;
 - Developing and implementing a survey for builders and developers of housing that currently exists, types of housing that should be built, and barriers to building more diverse housing. Results from the survey will be posted on the AHA website within the next few weeks.

Cheryl Steinberg talked about AHA’s advocacy work, which intersects with all of the other AHA priority areas. NH Legal Assistance serves as the lead agency for AHA’s work in advocacy with support from the Endowment for Health, NH Charitable Foundation and Tufts Health Plan Foundation. The advocacy agenda has focused on increasing provider rates for Medicaid Home and Community Based Care (HCBC or CFI, Choices for Independence), creating the State Commission on Aging, and enhancing the financial exploitation criminal statute. The AHA Advocacy work-group meets monthly.

Ahead for 2020 are continued advocacy for a vulnerable adult protective order bill, support for a bill removing the caps for HCBC/CFI relative to the costs of nursing home care, and a technical amendment to clarify that the Commission is attached to the Department of Administrative Services. Additional work is intended to strengthen the infrastructure for advocacy related to aging issues in the state. NH Legal Assistance is working closely with New Futures to build a strong and comprehensive advocacy effort.

Discussion following the formal presentation centered around receiving updates about relevant legislation, providing input on filling the NH-DHHS Commissioner position, understanding Navigant's work with DHHS, and working collaboratively with AHA in the future. Navigant has contracted with DHHS to analyze the long-term care services in the state and the company will issue a report by January.

Ken Berlin asked if the Commission could receive regular legislative updates about relevant legislation. Martha McLeod from New Futures said that she could send an Excel spreadsheet that tracks legislation to Rep. Campion to forward to the full group (for opt in or opt out by each individual Commission member). NH Legal Assistance staffer Dawn McKinney said that the AHA advocacy group anticipates a scrolling function on the AHA website by early 2020 to track aging-related legislation. She added that only a few bills are selected each year for advocacy focus, so the analysis of each piece of legislation is pretty involved. Wendi Aultman noted that it is important to track the fiscal impact so that there are no unintended impacts. Cheryl Steinberg said that NH Legal Assistance and the AHA advocacy group has detailed guidelines about bills to support and specifically views legislation through a client-oriented lens.

Rep. Campion said that the Commission looks forward to making recommendations in the future regarding legislation. The AHA representatives noted that the Commission's recommendations will have weight with policy makers.

Cheryl Steinberg urged the Commission to submit a letter to the committee charged with filling the position of NH-DHHS Commissioner, making sure that aging issues are "on the radar screen" during the interview and vetting process. Rep. Campion said that she would draft a letter for Commission members to review. Perry Plummer offered to help put aging-related questions together for Commissioner candidate interviews. Susan Emerson also suggested that the Executive Council be alerted to the importance of having candidates for Commissioner cognizant of aging issues.

V. Future Meeting Scheduling

The third Mondays in January and February are state/federal holidays, so the Commission agreed to meet the second Mondays of each month as alternate dates.

In January, the Commission will meet on January 13 and in February, on February 10.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting: Monday, December 16, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-noon, LOB 205.