

Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
Meeting Minutes
1/26/09

Present: Jeff Maker, Michelle Graham, Christina Cosgrove, Patrice Thabault, Alden Launer, Elbert DE Wit, Patsy French, Mary Ellen Spencer, Cliff Singer, Veda Lyon (invited guest) and Maria Mireault

Introductions

Veda Lyon, State Unit on Aging Manager and former DAIL representative to the Commission on ADRD, attended the meeting to familiarize herself with the current initiatives of the Commission. Michelle Graham and Elbert DE Wit, interns at the Vermont Veterans Home were re-introduced to the group.

Announcements

Jeff (VT Alzheimer's Association rep) is continuing his efforts to network and collaborate with other groups to increase awareness of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias and programs to serve this population. He met with Lt. Governor Dubie to discuss collaboration between the Commission on Healthy Aging and this Commission re dementia issues. Maria will consult with Craig Stevens, DAIL staff for the Commission on Healthy Aging, for a joint meeting to present the State Plan on Dementia. Jeff also met with Dr. Pendleberry from the UVM Center on Aging.

Additions to Agenda

The Simmons School of Social Work and Lyndon State College are joining forces to offer a clinical social work program. Veda is seeking input from Commission members pertaining to inclusion of an aging/gerontology track in the program. Anyone with suggestions/recommendations is asked to email Veda at veda.lyon@ahs.state.vt.us Commission members suggested that efforts should be made to generate interest in a social work career in aging as many students are drawn to working with younger populations. Mary Ellen suggested that it would be important to have a discussion regarding supervision of interns early in the stage of program development. Internship hours must be supervised by a social worker to meet the requirements for subsequent licensure. Most residential care homes and assisted living facilities do not have a social worker on staff.

Minutes

December minutes accepted as prepared.

Alzheimer's Legislative Awareness Day (April 17, 2009 8:30-1:30 – Vermont State House, Montpelier)

- Jeff will take the lead in planning Alzheimer's Awareness Day activities at the Statehouse.

Lessons learned from Prior Years

- It is challenging to draw legislators' attention to Alzheimer's Awareness Day given their busy schedules during the Legislative session
- Artwork done by persons with dementia has drawn interest in prior years.
- Devotional prayer and reading of a resolution were effective in setting the stage for the event.
- Limit the number of handouts and table tents.
- Chocolate and candy should be strategically placed in the reserved area of Card Room to ensure legislators speak with Commission members and see (read) the information available
- Invite consumers to the event

Suggestions for Apr 17

- Commission members encouraged to contact their legislators prior to Apr 17. Email and mailing addresses can be found at www.leg.state.vt.us under legislative directory on home page.
- Veda suggested an informal gathering (with coffee??) between legislators and Commission members prior to the legislative meeting on Apr 17
- Patsy indicated it would be important for Commission members to be at the Card Room by 8:30 to meet with legislators
- Commission members should be easily identifiable (purple ??)
- Alden will deliver a devotional prayer to the assembly (schedule permitting)
- Patsy will introduce the Commission members & their guests (as a group) and read a resolution about Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias. Maria/Jeff will provide Patsy with information needed for the resolution.
- Alzheimer's Association will have a tri-fold poster board about their program and services.
- Christina will speak with Mathew Perry re his availability to set up an art exhibit for Alzheimer's Awareness Day this year
- Cliff suggested a posterboard with highlights/priorities from the State Plan on Dementia. His research assistant may be able to help with design. Paper copies of the State Plan on Dementia should be available for distribution. Maria/Veda will explore possible funding available for printing.
- Table tents could have information about wandering / dementia / autism to coincide with the draft legislation for amended missing persons alert
- Maria will invite two family members of persons with cognitive impairment (dementia and autism) who got lost after wandering away from their homes to underscore importance of programs such as Safe Return, CareTrak and proposed bill for persons with dementia and autism. Members are encouraged to invite other consumers to Alzheimer's Awareness Day.

****Jeff has reserved the Card Room for Feb 2010 for next year

Dementia Respite Program and ElderCare Clinician Program

- Jeff will write a letter to the Governor, and Chairs of the House Human Services Committee and Senate Health and Welfare Committee on behalf of the Commission to advocate for these two programs that provide assistance to persons with dementia and their family caregivers. The letter will be ready for the Commission co-chairs to sign by January 27.
- Commission members will attempt to recruit program beneficiaries to provide testimony to the legislature about how these programs helped them. Personal stories help legislators understand the need for programs and services.

Sub-committee Updates:

Public Information/Involving Communities, Families and Consumers

- Continuing to recruit sub-committee members
- Meeting in Barre Jan 26 1:00 p.m.

Quality Improvement/

Public Policy

- Patsy has prepared draft language to amend the VT missing persons statute and broadcast alert system to include individuals with dementia/autism
- Maria will email the draft to all Commission members
- Commission members can email Patsy with suggestions for a name for the proposed Alert system. The name should convey the alert has been activated for either a person with dementia or a person with autism.

Infrastructure/Workforce

- No updates to report

Research/Emerging Issues

- No updates to report

Next Meeting: March 16, 2009 10:00-12:00 noon; Weeks 1C Conference Room
The regular February meeting will be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.