

STATE OF IOWA ALZHEIMER'S TASK FORCE
Official Minutes* of the
December 10, 2007 Meeting
Iowa State Historical Building
Des Moines

Call to Order

Director McCalley called the business meeting of the Alzheimer's Task Force to order at 9:35 A.M.

Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent	Member	Present	Absent
Barbara Barker	X		Linda Linderbaum		X
Dr. Robert L. Bender II	X		John McCalley	X	
Don Chensvold	X		Carol Peterson	X	
Tony Dietsch		X	Senator Amanda Ragan		X
Representative Ro Foege		X	Dr. Mehrdad Razavi	X	
Pat Gill	X		JoAnn Simpson	X	
Becky Groff	X		Representative Mark Smith	X	
Renee Grummer-Miller, MSW, LISW	X		Jennifer Steenblock	X	
Senator Jack Hatch		X	Kathy Sutton	X	
Linda Larkin	X				

Other attendees available on hard copy only.

Minutes

Following a few minor changes to November's Task Force meeting the minutes were approved.

Agenda

Ms. Peterson brought in a local paper with an extensive article in regards to a local family remembering their loved one who died of Alzheimer's disease. The paper does mention the Alzheimer's disease survey on the Department of Elder Affairs' website.

Workgroup Updates

Ms. Peterson shared the funding and reimbursement group is looking at waivers and legislation changes as well as developing some written materials. Chair of the services and housing group, Ms. Groff stated the group took public comments and presentations and put them into 8 recommendations to see how they fit with the criteria. Support documents are looking to be incorporated into recommendations. Ms. Larkin, education and training workgroup chair, shared they condensed recommendations with their facilitator assistance. For the most part they are happy with what they will be presenting to the group. The wellness and disease management chair, Dr. Bender stated their recommendations include and continuing the task force recommendations with the legislature. Through that continued work it would be able to look fully into various aspects specifically such as lack of psychiatrists, locations and services.

Another recommendation includes tightening the existing services and wellness programs with the possibility of developing new programs.

Results to date from On-Line Survey

Ms. Debi Meyers: reported so far there have been 98 responses to the survey. The survey contains open-ended questions letting the participants have the opportunity to share in their own words how Alzheimer's disease affects their lives. Demographics show participants who identified with the 'other category' could have identified with caregivers or family member of a person with Alzheimer's disease. As it is still early in the reporting, staff hopes to take a look at the correlation between family and caregivers as well as incorporating their comments into the final report. Director McCalley added the Life Long Links website link should pop up after the survey is completed allowing participants to look for services.

Workgroups Meet

The four workgroups met to finalize their reported recommendations as well as to look over any new information. All of the groups had additions to the reported recommendations.

During Linda Larkin's presentation for the workgroup two items were discussed for changes. The first item was changing the idea of increasing the minimum training of 8 hours to establishing the minimum training of 8 hours for direct care workers. The last item discussed was the inclusion of regulators in the training for direct care workers. One side of the issue seemed to be that regulators are charged with the rules not charged with the direct care and looking at minimum standards. Mr. Chensvold presented the other side stating it begs the question to have the regulators receive the same training to be sure everyone is on the same page. Ms. Sutton stated regardless of the training the regulators look at the rules. Director McCalley stated to table the discussion for now to see if the issue comes up later in discussion.

The other three workgroups, funding and reimbursement, services and housing, wellness and disease management looked at bringing something new to the realm of Alzheimer's disease. Funding and Reimbursement looked at creating a continuum of diagnosis. This continuum would be based on questions and answers. Services and Housing looked at adding multi-disciplined screening tool in addition to further exploration of rules and Adult Day Service Centers. Wellness and Disease Management looked at creating centers no longer than an hour drive away perhaps ran by the Alzheimer's Association. There is a crisis among seniors today due to the lack of geriatric psychologists and therefore creating a lack of a care network.

Public Comment on Recommendations

Carol Sipfle, Alzheimer's Association Executive Director: gave her compliments to the task force on their work and stated it is all moving in the right direction. She shared three items to add to the recommendations. The first is training for the regulators of surveyors as Mr. Chensvold pointed out in the Education and Training recommendations. This keeps everyone on the same page.

The next item Ms. Sipfle discussed was dementia screening tools by the public. The Alzheimer's Association is against public screening. This sort of diagnosis needs to be done by a physician. Dr. Razavi interjected to have easier tools to aide nurses and providers with

assisting someone who is complaining of memory problems. This would be a screening tool done by nurses as the community level diagnosis is not to that level yet. Finally Ms. Sipfle would like to see in the recommendations something about continuing the Alzheimer's Task Force work and not just placed on a shelf. There needs to be some mechanism put into place with extra funding so that this work is continued it does not need to be department specific. Ms. Larkin added that would be up to the legislature.

Ms. Barbara Barker added in Dr. Bender diagnosed her. Before that happened, a psychologist assistant put her through a battery of tests, and asked Ms. Barker the same question 2 times. The assistant did not listen to her as she had stated she didn't know!

Whole Committee

Department staff will put the recommendations in a word document format to give the task force some time to process them. A fifth meeting is not necessary, but the department can host a conference call with public access to finalize the recommendations. The recommendations will be presented in a succinct order, and comments from the survey will be interspersed throughout the document.

The document will be circulated to the task force one last time for comment. For presenting the findings, the department may call on the assistance of the task force. The Senior Living Coordination Unit (SLCU) and Elder Affairs Commission will be two forums to present the final report. Another viable option may be spending a day at the Capitol presenting the recommendations in the rotunda or having a legislation breakfast or lunch.

Representative Smith pointed out the task force was in agreement of about 80-90% of the recommendations and asked to revisit the items that had dissention. He also pointed out, when the recommendations are in the legislature sub-committees that would then provide another opportunity for the public to make comments.

Mr. Chensvold had objected to excluding the regulators from having the same training as the direct care workers. He explained that the regulators ought to have the same knowledge base as the direct care staff. Ms. Groff added perhaps in reviewing existing rules this may be a time to update and change the rules. Ms. Jeanne Yordi added the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Unit is always looking for the most up-to-date training. Mr. Chensvold stated it will come out in the executive summary and long report.

Mr. Gill added clarity to the assessment tool in making it consistent with the Alzheimer's Association it will be geared towards providers and not families.

Ms. Groff stated in the past the task force went to a Governor's advisory committee to the Department's advisory committee. For a period of time they went very well, but there are different key players now. Director McCalley would like to see the work continue, especially now that the task force has a developed a history. Mr. Anliker pointed out 2 of the workgroups have the language of having the work continued, but the language in the law states to have the task force dissolved upon completion and submission of the report.

Closing Discussion

There will be a conference call on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 for 90 minutes. The recommendation document will come from Director McCalley via e-mail.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss at this time. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Mulford*
Recording Secretary

*These meeting minutes were prepared following December 10, 2007, therefore they have not been voted on for approval by the Alzheimer's Task Force.