



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging
Charles D. Johnson, Director

Older Adult Services Advisory Committee

Workforce and Caregiver Work Group

Date: April 14, 2008, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. conference call

Attending: Susan Real (Chair), Melanie Chavin, Betsy Essex, Frank Daigh, Ella Grays, Sharon Sea Hamilton, Naoku Muramatsu, Wilma Schmitz.

IDOa Staff in attendance: Janice Cichowlas, Betsy Creamer, Barb Schwartz

December 2008 Working Caregiver Event Progress Report

Wilma Schmitz — During the NCOA Conference, Wilma reported a conversation with Susan Mentz and John Paul Marosy. They provided her an outline on how to have a town hall meeting. It was suggested that we have Robin Golden (Rush Hospital) as a keynote person about what is going on in the field and the role of caregivers. Josephina Carbonnel will not be available but would be good for a keynote speaker.

Contact Wal-Mart as they want to change their image and they have money for sponsorship. Original members of the subcommittee for planning the Caregiver Conference: Wilma Schmitz (chair) Sarah Stein, Patricia O'Dea-Evans, Jaime Hersh-White, Donna Copeland Hill.

NCOA Caregiver conference call is taking place on Wednesday. Wilma to report. Jan Cichowlas to attend the Wisconsin Think Tank on Caregiver Issues on May 16. Jan will report.

Statewide caregiver meeting is scheduled for May 7 at the Area Agency on Aging in Springfield. It was decided that a planning meeting with Rose Lober-Hamilton for the December 2008 Working Caregiver Event is needed. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 21.

Limited-English Speaking Concerns — Follow-up

Darby Mornhardt was unable to participate in today's meeting but had recommended that a survey be developed during an earlier workgroup meeting. Darby sent an email stating she wanted to follow-up regarding the limited English proficiency (LEP). Her next meeting is April 16 to discuss a draft survey that would be sent to all LEP agencies asking their input regarding concerns with aging service delivery to their communities. She thinks they will be ready to report at the June meeting.

PBS Special on Caregiving

Several people expressed a wish that the show had been more positive. Wilma Schmitz contacted her local station to suggest they give referral agencies, like the Area Agency on Aging, for people to draw on.

The Eldercare Locator call center in Washington, D.C., will be closing and routing calls to the Area Agencies on Aging. In the past, there was a live person to answer the call, who then rerouted the call. The number will still function, but the rerouting will take place automatically. They are trying to make the number as user friendly as possible.

Additional Discussion

Betsy Essex went to a Hartford Geriatric Scholar Retreat. She is interested in re-looking at the Health Survey questions we voted not to pay to add to the state survey.

Frank Daigh: Impact on increase of minimum wage — what workers who care for seniors make vs. workers who care for the disabled; health care benefits for workers. Where are we on the health care insurance for the workforce? We can't expect a good workforce when we are the low end of the totem pole in terms of pay. It's time to take a stand that this workforce needs to be treated fairly. Darby Anderson was to do a survey; was it ever finished?

Betsy Creamer reported that there will be a rate increase, and some insurance benefits. Jan Cichowlas will contact Shelly Ebert for details. It was suggested that Shelly report at the next Workforce/Caregiver Workgroup conference call.

Next Conference Call:

May 12, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.