

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)

September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Candace Cole-McCrea, Richard Crocker, Rep. Susan Emerson, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Herb Johnson, Bob Ritchie, Joan Schulze

Excused: Russ Armstrong, Chuck Engborg, Sherri Harden

Guests: Rev. Dr. Norma J. Brettell, Jim Thompson,

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Mark Frank. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve June 1, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

Mark Frank was appointed chairman of SCOA by Governor Margaret Hassan on July 27, 2015.

Katheryn Cauble has resigned as Secretary of SCOA. Mark has asked if any members are interested in being Secretary.

State Budget Update: Rep. Susan Emerson

The Senate and the House will be meeting on September 9th, the Republican do not have enough votes to override the Governor's veto. If there are not enough votes then the state would be using a default budget. 1 million dollars has been put into the Parks and Recreation department to ensure that all the state parks stay open.

LSR's: Rich Crocker

Currently these LSR's are in the draft process. Some LSR that are of interest are;

HB 2105: Relative to Transportation Company's under the Manage Care Program, people who do not have transportation to medical appointments, will have Medicaid support for transportation.

HB 2106: Relative to Brokers Arranging Transportation for Medicaid Patients.

HB 2107: Requiring Vendors under the Medicaid Managed Care Program to Provide Certain Reports.

State Plan on Aging: Tracey Tarr

Joan Schulze signed off on the plan for SCOA. The plan is currently with ACL/ORO for approval.

Medicaid Managed Care update: Rich Crocker

In June, New Hampshire Association for Counties and the New Hampshire Health Care Association did a presentation before the Medicaid Managed Care Commission, presenting their concerns of the rate setting for nursing homes. In HB 2 and the Commissioner verbal statements, the Department of Health and Human Services does not wish to be involved in the rate setting discussion with the MCO and providers. This has the nursing home industry a little concerned about this.

The State will keep the rate structure in place for the first year of Managed Care for the community providers and for the nursing homes.

In July, Commissioner Toumpas went before the Executive Council proposing to table the contract amendment to the Medicaid Managed Care contract enabling the extension of the contract until June 30, 2017 for a total of 1.3 billion. The reason for the delay is there is a problem between the MCO and the community mental health centers. 9 out of 10 centers had refused to sign on contracts with MCO's because the MHC was asked to take a 30% cut. The proposed amendment was passed.

Endowment for Health Initiative: Rich Crocker

The Endowment has contract with The Frameworks Institute, The mission of the FrameWorks Institute is to advance the nonprofit sector's communications capacity by identifying, translating and modeling relevant scholarly research for framing the public discourse about social problems.

Five themes to aging:

The Throw Away Generation: This highlights elder abuse and discrimination.

The Vibrant Senior and Independent Senior: This is representing the ideals of aging.

The Aging Workers: Focuses on older adults in and out of the labor market.

Demographic Crisis: In moments of times in pending crisis in an aging population.

A Government Action: Treated differently depending on who is talking about it.

A focus group is trying to come up with alternative narratives and scripts that would promote ageing. This will be done thorough communication and advertising.

Oral Health - Larry Flint & Rep. Sue Emerson:

The committee went over the report at their last meeting; they came to agreement but with exception. The exception will be talked about the two people that make up the report and the report will be revised at the October meeting and Larry or Susan will bring it to SCOA at the November meeting.

Commission Study on Mental Health RSA 135 – Rep. Susan Emerson:

There is nothing new to report due to the State House being closed for the summer.

Candace has asked some of its members to advocate for seniors on the Behavioral Health Planning Council that meet every second Tuesday night from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Audubon society. Joan and Norma have volunteered.

Discussion of SCOA's Functions and Rules RSA 161F – Mark Frank:

If there are issues in your region please bring them to the committee's attention so we all can discuss and bring attention to the problems. The committee will look at the RSA, and at the next meeting propose any changes to be made or not.

Cats and Dogs

Older American Act Reorganization – Joan has been working on this since 2012, this is currently being discussed. The bill in congress has bi-partisan support to reauthorize the title.

White House Conference on Aging – Mark and Bob attend the conference at Department of Health and Human Services, comments about the conference were that it was long and there is a lot of advocacy for the elderly.

SCOA Membership - Mark would like from everyone a list of the people they have replaced on the committee.

Next meeting is October 5, 2015 from 10:00-12:00.