

North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse

1.16.19 Minutes

Present: Angie Dorsey, Richard Trotter, Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones, Mary Marlin, Stephanie Bias, John Maron, Carolyn Pennington, Mary Edwards, Sandy Crane, Sarah Maness-Smith, Jennifer Stuart, Stacy Ferrell, Christopher Jones, Rosalyn Pettyford, Pam Palmer, Amanda Little, Laura McCracken, Roxann Sizemore, Shevel Mavins, Kevin Robertson, Nancy Warren, Joan Pellettier, and Laura Jett. Chris O'Keefe was present by phone and Kathy Graham attended via Facebook Live.

Nancy Warren welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 9:30.

The meeting began with a tour of our website. Members were given a tour of the advocacy tab on the website. Legislative priorities are posted on this tab now, as well as, the updated Adult Protective Services factsheet published by DAAS. The tools on the website can be printed and down loaded by members for use on advocacy days to create information packets. Legislative priorities drafted by STHL, the Governor's Advocacy Council on Aging, and the Coalition on Aging were reviewed. NC3PA is drafting a letter of support and will post on our page.

Program

Shevel Mavins introduced our speaker, Morgan Parlier, MSW, LCSW representing the UNC School of Medicine Developmental Disability Institute. The topic was Sexual Violence Prevention for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. The following information was shared:

- The institute focuses on research and clinical services. They bring in trainees to create leaders in the field of services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- In 2014, they began developing a curriculum for educating consumers about sex due to an expressed need by families, foster families, and guardians.
- Sexual violence is occurring in disproportionate numbers for those with developmental disabilities. They are four to ten times more likely to experience sexual violence.
- 90% of those with developmental disabilities will experience sexual violence; 49% will experience 10 incidents in their lifetime.
- Many times the abuse is discovered due to a sexually transmitted disease or pregnancy.
- The majority of perpetrators are known and trusted individuals.
- 10%-15% of sexual offenses are committed by people with IDD. This is 9% higher than the general populations.
- Sexual offenses are the 2nd most common crime among people with IDD. Often this may be voyeurism or indecent exposure.
- 50% of incarcerated offenders with IDD and 34% of those living in the community have been convicted of a sex offense.
- This population is more vulnerable to abuse and to perpetrating abuse due to social cognitive deficits, difficulty reading cues, having limited eye contact with others, not understanding body language, speech/language impairment, lack of ability to empathize, and needing to rely on others for ADL's.
- Individuals are socially vulnerable. They are taught to trust others for care; they desire acceptance and inclusion.
- To reduce vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities, the school has developed curriculum to train individuals on decision making and sexual education throughout the lifespan. Teaching them to challenge the "trust of all" mindset, clarify values, understanding consent, modeling appropriate social behavior with boundaries, and using teachable moments.
- The institute also has a focus on helping clinicians understand how to interview someone with IDD and to be trauma informed.

- The UNC Center for IDD has developed curriculum for the individual and the caregiver. The classes are separated and then they are brought together for 30 minutes for activities and discussion. They teach concepts of self-control, respect of self and others, body autonomy, and understanding public and private spaces.
- The audience asked if consent can be withdrawn once it is given and Morgan shared that it cannot. North Carolina is the only state that still has this law on the books.

After the program, the committee took a brief break.

Review of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes from the November 7th general meeting were submitted by Laura Jett, Secretary for approval. After review, it was noted that a correction in the spelling of our speaker Morgan Parlier was required. Stephanie Bias made a motion to accept the minutes with this correction. Kevin Robertson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

Pam Palmer, Treasurer, provided the treasurer's report and update. We have 16 organizational members and 12 individual members. We received \$715 in dues and our expenses totaled \$394.76. Our balance is \$9609.40. Joan Pellettier made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by John Maron. With no further discussion, the report was approved.

Committee Reports

Having reviewed the legislative priorities at the beginning of the meeting, the committee discussed opportunities for advocacy and for further education. Rosalyn Pettyford asked that the STHL priorities be endorsed and posted on our advocacy tab.

It was shared that there will be an advocacy day by STHL on March 13th. There will be an advocacy day on April 3rd with AARP, FORLTC, and the Ombudsman Association.

Regarding the May 15th Conference, Justice for All?, the projected agenda has been made. The results of the member survey were reviewed and the committee is working to secure presenters for the topics chosen. Pam will send out the survey results. Shevel is working on CEU's as we define the sessions and topics.

Monica LaLiberty has been invited to speak during lunch at the conference to provide a lighter topic. Members were asked for speaker suggestions for the topics chosen. Angie Dorsey recommended Caitlyn Riland to address Human Trafficking. Mary Edwards suggested Morgan Parlier to return for the conference as a speaker.

Nancy shared she continues working with the District Attorney association for the development of an Elder Abuse manual for prosecutors. Roxanne Sizemore shared they have had 2 successful prosecutions recently for financial exploitation. They have a new DA in Buncombe County.

Nancy shared information on Marsy's Law. With this law, some crimes that were not eligible for victim's services will now be covered. This may be a good education topic for the association.

Member Updates:

Stacy Ferrell shared that the SECU has increased their training numbers on financial scams tenfold. As a result, their call volume has increased 300%, with red flags being reported. Shevel Mavins stated she has seen an increase in referrals to APS by the SECU.

Jennifer Stuart shared they are working elder abuse into their presentations to increase education as well.

Sarah Maness-Smith shared they are hiring for 3 staff positions at DAAS.

Sandy Crane reminded everyone of Advocacy Day on April 3rd. The focal point is on raising the NC Personal Needs Allowance for long term care residents and increasing the # of ombudsman in the state.

Carolyn Pennington shared that there was a financial exploitation case in which the facility misappropriated resident funds and then discharged the resident to the hospital for non-payment. APS reached out to her and they worked together on the case.

John Maron reported that this year they are working on Cyber Security Issues by providing education on this for Investment Brokers. The brokers have a responsibility to keep the clients' money and information safe. The training will begin this year. The Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force meets 1/17 at 10:00 a.m. at the AARP office. They meet quarterly and there is call in option.

Nancy states that the Rethinking Guardianship Summit is February 25th in Raleigh. Registration is free.

Shevel shared that there is an increase in APS financial exploitation cases. They are catching it sooner and are more successful keeping the senior in their home.

Rosalyn Pettyford shared that Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones received an award from AARP for her advocacy work with AARP as a team lead.

Angie Dorsey shared with the group a priority area they are working on for people that transfer assets to family and lose Medicaid or are ineligible.

The Elder Abuse Financial Exploitation template project for legal aid has Rebecca Garcia leading the effort. They are in need of an ombudsman to help with the ombudsman section of the template.

Mary Marlin informed the group they have an Elder Abuse conference planned for June 13th at Nash County Community College.

Kevin Robertson states that all NC beneficiaries should have their Medicare cards. There are issues currently with people received medical equipment they did not order. They are working with the attorney general to create TV ads and get the word out to consumers.

Chris Jones states he is working with the NC Bar Association Elder Law Pro Bono Project to organize data for presentations and connect presenters to request for speakers. It is being organized so the attorneys can more easily access the data for use.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is March 20th at Triangle J COG. Mike Copeland will be our presenter. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Jett, Secretary