**North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse**

**Triangle J Council of Government**

**7.17.2019**

**Present:** Mercedes Restuchaklem, Rosalyn Pettyford, Brittany Hughes, Heather Magill, Laura McCracken, Roxann Sizemore, Mary Edwards, Laura Schlabach, Pam Palmer, Shevel Mavins, Laura Cockman, Ann Elmore, Elizabeth Kressmann-St. Pierre, Brittany Melvin, Sandra Deutsch, Krista Kretzschmar, John Maron, Camilla Ungaro, Joan Pellettier, Jenise Horton, Laura Jett, and Nancy Warren. Greg Tanner and Angela Ellis were in attendance by phone.

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Warren, Chair, at 9:30 a.m. Nancy welcomed the group and thanked the Triangle J Council of Government for hosting. Also, a special thank you to Pam Palmer, treasurer for securing the meeting space and ensuring needed equipment is available.

**Approval of the Minutes**: The minutes from the business meeting conducted at the May 15th conference were presented by secretary, Laura Jett. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ann Elmore and seconded by Shevel Mavins. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report**: A final report for the fiscal year was presented with a balance of $8,630.61 as of 6/30/2109. The new balance for July 17, 2019 is $8,684.61. July 1st is a new membership year. The new membership application is online. There is an option for a $10 membership for members who are 60 years of age or older. Mary Edwards inquired about any goals the committee has for the use of the funds, as the balance has grown. Nancy stated it may be used for more expert speakers for the conference, or to extend the conference into a two day event. Nancy encouraged anyone that may have ideas to please share these.

**Program**: Kenneth Wilkins from the US Census Bureau Atlanta Office presented to the partnership on the upcoming Census 2020. He shared the following main points:

* The census occurs every 10 years. Data must be compiled by the end of the year 2020.
* The census determines funding for many programs, $675 billion to states every year. The census also determines congressional seats. There are no new seats added, seats are reallocated based on population growth or loss.
* There are currently people in each county referred to as “listers” that are driving through the community checking addresses. Listers will work with planning and gis departments to identify any new housing developments as well.
* Census information is confidential, respondents are not identified. The data can be used for grants and also to forecast the need for transportation, education, healthcare, EMS, and many other programs.
* Opportunity for frauds and scams during census collection does exist. The census workers will not ask for SSN, money, or donations. They will not ask for PIN numbers or passwords or make requests on behalf of any political party.
* The census card will arrive by mail asking respondents to call or go online to respond. If there is no response, census workers will begin canvasing the area in the fall. The census will not call you. Those canvasing the area will have a badge.
* In the 2010 Census, there were approximately one million children not counted. Others that were underrepresented: homeless, veterans, disabled, rural communities, senior citizens, migrant farm workers, foreign born immigrants, renters, person’s with limited English proficiency, and children under the age of 5.
* In March 2020 every residence will get a barcode. The barcode will be used to collect responses.
* Workers will be assigned to go into long term care facilities, mental health facilities, college campuses, and to count those in prisons.
* The Governor has established Complete Count committees. These committees seek to recruit trusted community voices in each county to attempt to reach the undercounted target populations. The goal is to increase the census response to above 80%.
* You can identify hard to count areas by going online and viewing the ROAM map-Response Outreach Area Mapper.
* The census bureau is hiring, 5,600 workers are needed. They will train and provide materials.

**Road Map for Program Improvement** – The Social Services Directors Association recently disseminated an Aging Services Road Map. Angela Ellis, co-chair of the Adult Services Committee of the Directors Association discussed the document briefly with our partnership. She states that the Road Map was created as a resource and as a tool when speaking with legislators and partners to advocate for aging services. The document identifies five key areas where improvements are needed in order to meet the demands of the current aging population as well as the growing numbers that will need services. Those five areas are: Direct County Practice, County Infrastructure Support, Interface with the Court System, Communication Strategies with Stakeholders, and Service Array and Systemic Factors.

Ms. Ellis states that the first goal is to get the roadmap into the hands of as many people as possible. One key group is county commissioners. Once the document has been widely disseminated, then the association can begin working on stakeholder groups for further discussion and development.

Nancy would like Ms. Ellis to come to one of our next meetings to discuss the Roadmap further and how we can be a partner in this process.

**2019 Conference Follow up**:

Members provided feedback on the 2019 conference and shared some ideas for 2020. Overall, members enjoyed the conference and felt the panel and speakers were good. It was suggested that we may have more participants if we invited participants from the MDT’s. Also, one topic for 2020 could be an Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team. Some are interested in forming these in their areas. Having someone or a panel of experts that have a team could be a good topic. Another good topic would be to have someone from the Conference of District Attorneys to speak on the Elder Abuse Prosecution Manual they have developed. One possible conference theme was mentioned, 2020 Foresight.

Shevel encouraged feedback and suggestions on speakers. Suggestions can be emailed to info@ncp3a.org.

**Partner Updates**:

* The Multidisciplinary Teams Workshop will be held in September. Teams have been chosen. Guilford County has a team of 7 participating.
* Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and Elder Justice Act is still needed. We need to think of ways the partnership can advocate locally during the short session.
* Guilford County has a new lobby.
* State Employees Credit Union is currently hiring. They are looking for people with an APS background or with knowledge relating to abuse and exploitation.
* Anne Elmore is currently doing outreach to senior groups to educate on Advanced Care Planning. She is also collecting resource guides from the AAA’s.
* John Maron is working with investment advisors on Cybersecurity to ensure client information and investments are being protected from cyber threats. John also shared there is petition on the Attorney General’s website, Department of Justice, regarding robocalls and scams. The Consumer Fraud Taskforce meets tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The call in number is 1-866-215-3402.
* Pam Palmer shared that a chair is needed for the communications committee. The communications chair is responsible for sending emails, updating the website, and keeping the Facebook page up to date. Please see Nancy or Pam if you are interested.
* Laura Schlabach is a new member. She shared that she works with the Medicaid investigation unit. She is a registered nurse.
* Mary Edwards shared that the new State Aging Plan is completed and has been submitted for approval. Mary also shared she is retiring at the end of October.
* Buncombe County shared that they held a World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk in June with over 300 participants. This walk was made possible with many partners.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

**Next Meeting**: September 18th 9:30 a.m. at Triangle J Cog. Speaker Lewis R. Fadely, Attorney-at-Law Lewis Fadley. Topic: DSS vs. Non-DSS APS Guardianship cases from a GAL Perspective.