

**Trident Area Agency on Aging
Advisory Council Meeting
In-Person and Virtual Meeting (VIA ZOOM)**

January 19, 2023

10:00—11:30 AM

Members Present: Mary Rohaley, Mary Peters, Nancy Goodman (in-person)
Kishia Gibbs, Mackenzie Cochran, Marlene Williamon, Wes Perich, Bill Streiffeler (virtual)

Staff Present: Stephanie Blunt, Lauren McNally

- I. Wes Perich called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
- II. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting
 - Minutes were approved without objection.
- III. Chairperson Report
 - Wes Perich discussed membership regarding advisory council. Currently nine members and the target should be between 10-13 members.
 - Discussion of criteria for membership, highlighting the need to increase the membership of representatives of family caregivers, and residents of Berkeley and Dorchester counties.
- IV. Executive Director's Report
 - Stephanie Blunt presented the final results and report of the region from statewide needs assessment survey.
 - Discussion on possible reasons the number of responses were lower than anticipated. Although the first time with an online option, there were many printed copies mailed and manually entered into the data set.
 - Despite the lower number of responses- a success of the needs assessment is that a majority of respondents in the region were of people not already receiving services from the TAAA and/or Senior Centers. This is important in that the people receiving services are assessed and asked their needs annually. Reaching people outside of the service helps identify needs of seniors in the community as a whole.
 - Stephanie Blunt presented Area Plan Goals established by the State Office on Aging as well as the additional goals specifically for TAAA.
 - Goals, targets for the current fiscal year as well as an update on where the agency currently stands in regards to the targets were included.
 - Area Plan is due by March 1st and needs to be approved by the TAAA board, February 21st.

- Stephanie Blunt discussed rising costs of providing services.
 - Shared the meal reimbursement rates with Senior Catering for meal pricing for hot, frozen, shelf stable meals.
 - Home care reimbursement rates also something to be revisited. Medicaid announced increases in their reimbursement rates to \$25.00 per hour, which is currently \$3.00 more than TAAA contracts.
 - Discussion on proposed update to the funding formula used to allocate funding to the three counties in the region.
 - TAAA is proposing adding population of 65+ with a disability to the funding formula to better reflect the target populations of the state office on aging.
- V. Senior Expo with MUSC Update
- Stephanie Blunt has met with contact with MUSC regarding the status of the Senior Expo. Currently there are 15 paid exhibitors, outside of MUSC with 5 additional in the works. The expo will need volunteers. February 1st is the deadline for sponsorships, to give enough time for printed materials. The deadline for exhibitors is February 24th.
- VI. Family Caregiver Support Program
- Lauren McNally gave brief update on the status of the supporting working family caregivers program, funded through the federal ARPA funding. There has been a sharp uptick in interest in the program since the holiday season, especially for working family caregivers who are working from home. Lauren anticipates all spots will be filled by the end of the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year. Next meeting there will be a report of the demographics of the participants enrolled.
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
- Wes Perich announced the plan to continue advisory council meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month with planned meeting months- March, May, September, and November.*
- IX. Adjournment
- Kishia Gibbs motioned to adjourn. Nancy Goodman seconded motion. Motion was approved without objection.

*Edit- Wes Perich sent follow up e-mail regarding the proposed meeting dates on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Due to conflicts in schedules, meetings will now be held on the 3rd Thursday of March, May, September, and November.