



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee Sub-Committee Hearing Loss Sub Committee (HLSC) Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 5, 2009

Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present

Bill Engler (Co-Chair of HLSC), Doyle Meredith (Chair of SHAC), Michele Michaels (Co-Chair of HLSC), Mike Connolly, Jay Griffith, Sharyle Price, Karen Richards, Bill Schaefer, Carmen Green

Council Members Not Present

N/A

Staff Present

Shawn Trobia

Welcome, Introductions

Michele Michaels, Co-Chair, called the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee meeting to order at 2:04pm. Introductions followed.

Discussion Topics:

Ms. Michaels, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, reminded the group that 'education' is the focus of the sub-committee. Ms. Michaels then shared a packet of information with the sub-committee members. Packet included information about existing resources available to consumers with hearing loss. Ms. Michaels noted that including the information in this packet does not imply an endorsement of the product or service.

- 1. Identify existing organizations for potential collaboration**
- 2. Discuss best methods of educational outreach to seniors**

Participants discussed numerous groups that would be avenues for information sharing, including: case managers working in senior health plan organizations, groups such as the Lion's Club, *Tri-City Caregiver Coalition* in the Prescott area, etc. It was noted that several comprehensive lists exist of groups that would be appropriate to consider sharing information with, once a "product" has been developed.

At this time, Doyle Meredith, Chair of the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee, asked the group to consider both short term (3-4 months timeframe) and long term (1 year timeframe) projects in today's discussions.

Note: Ms. Michaels noted that a workgroup may need to be formed to decide what is the most valuable information to include when designing materials for public education.

The following goals and objectives for the HLSC were then discussed.

GOAL #1: Train the Trainer

Objective 1.1: Recruit Trainees

Objective 1.2: Develop Fact Sheet

Objective 1.3: ?

GOAL #2: Public Outreach

Objective 2.1: Identify Audience

Objective 2.2: Provide Information about Devices (Action Item)

Objective 2.3: ?

GOAL #3: Advocacy

Objective 3.1: Educate Hard of Hearing consumers (consumers' legal rights)

Objective 3.2: Educate professionals of existence of available training from the Hearing Loss Association of America

Objective 3.3: ?

At this time, noting that the development of two fact sheets for distribution at Senior Action Day, (scheduled for 4/1/2009) was a priority, the group discussed:

- Fact Sheet For Legislators (*Economic Impact focus*)
- Fact Sheet For Senior Advocates (Area Agencies on Aging, etc.) (*Quality of Life focus*)

The *Fact Sheets' possible content* was outlined to include:

1. Statistics for Arizona (For Legislators and Advocates)
 - People that do not have Hearing Aids, but need them
 - Health plans' coverage (consumers not utilizing their benefits, but are there statistics for this?)
2. Awareness of Laws (For Legislators and Advocates)
 - Sec 504 of Rehabilitation Act
 - ADA
3. Available resources for consumers (For Advocates)
4. Types of licenses for Professionals in AZ (For Legislators and Advocates)

5. A testimony from a consumer (For Legislators and Advocates)
6. Economic impact in the workforce due to workers with Hearing Loss not having proper devices, i.e.: workers have lower wages, etc. (For Legislators and Advocates)

It was noted that Ms. Michaels is very familiar with so many aspects, (laws, resources, etc.) on this possible content list that she will take the lead in assembling content for the fact sheets. Ms. Michaels will seek assistance from the sub-committee members, as necessary. It was planned to have a draft version of fact sheets' content completed by March 5th, the next meeting date of the Social, Health, & Alzheimer's Committee (SHAC). The HLSC will meet again on that same day, review the draft fact sheets, and then will make recommendations to the full SHAC, for its consideration.

3. Determine if there is a need for sub-committee meeting prior to 3/5/09

It was determined that the sub-committee will next meet during the full SHAC meeting on March 5.

Other Updates & Announcements:

- Mr. Jay Griffith noted that his attendance at the HLSC and SHAC meetings are as a member of the public, and not as a representative of his employer. Mr. Griffith also noted, with the intention of making a full disclosure, that he is currently writing a book that is similar in content to the discussions of the HLSC.

Action Items

- Ms. Michaels will take the lead in assembling content for the fact sheets, and will seek assistance from the sub-committee members, as necessary. Drafts to be completed by March 5, 2009, and will then be reviewed by the HLSC and the SHAC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The Hearing Loss Sub-Committee will meet in a breakout session during the next Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting which will be March 5, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.