

**Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
3-16-09

**Present:** Jeff Maker, Patrice Thabault, Alden Launer, Patsy French, Mary Ellen Spencer, J Paul Giuliani, Nancy Schaedel and Maria Mireault

**Announcements**

The Vermont Alzheimer's Association annual fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 28 at the Doubletree Hotel, Williston Rd., South Burlington from 6:00-10:30 p.m. For more information call Jeff Maker at 1-802-477-7000 or email Dan Bean at [djb05401@msn.com](mailto:djb05401@msn.com).

Jeff Maker will be giving a presentation to the Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging on March 24 to discuss collaboration between the two commissions to advance the goals and objectives of the State Plan on Dementia.

As a follow-up to the letter that was sent to several House representatives about maintaining funding for the dementia respite and eldercare clinician program, Jeff was asked to testify to the House Appropriations committee. Jeff testified for the dementia respite program. Ed Lieberman, Counseling Services of Addison County, testified for the eldercare clinician program.

The Brookdale Foundation is seeking requests for proposals for funding to develop group respite or early memory loss programs. New grantees will receive seed grants (\$7500 in year one, \$3500 in year two), obtain training and intensive technical assistance. More information about this funding opportunity is available at [www.brookdalefoundation.org](http://www.brookdalefoundation.org)

**Minutes**

The January minutes were accepted as prepared. Motion – Rep. Patsy French; Second – Jeff Maker

**Commission Membership Update**

Amanda Mills-Brown announced her resignation via email on March 16. Four positions are nearing the end of their term (Alzheimer's Assoc., Social Work, Physician, Adult Day). Representatives have been notified and were asked to send Maria a short text indicating why they wish to continue their work with the Commission. The Home Health position has not been filled. The single applicant who submitted an application to the Governor's office last fall was not accepted. The Senate position is also vacant. Patsy has asked Senator Schumlin to appoint a representative. Jeff will mention the long-standing vacancy to Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie at the Commission on Healthy Aging meeting.

## **Alzheimer's Legislative Awareness Day (April 17, 2009 8:30-1:30 – Vermont State House, Montpelier)**

- Patrice will follow-up with Christina as to whether Matthew Perry will exhibit artwork of persons with dementia as he has in previous years.
- If an art exhibit is planned, information about the goals and objectives of the State Plan on Dementia will be interspersed in the display. Alternatively, information about the plan will be displayed on poster board. Cliff Singer indicated that his research assistant would prepare the display. Maria will provide the research assistant with excerpts from the State Plan on Dementia Executive Summary to prepare the display (topic headings, photos, quotes, goals and objectives)
- Print copies of the Executive Summary will be available for distribution
- Jeff has ordered chocolate and purple ribbons for the event
- Letters announcing the event will be sent to Legislators
- Patsy has made arrangements for Alden to deliver the devotional prayer
- Patsy will introduce the Commission and other participants
- Jeff has invited an individual with dementia and her spouse to speak about their experience with legislators
- Maria will invite other family caregivers to attend
- Jeff will email details of the Awareness Day schedule by March 27.
- Commission members are encouraged to arrive at the State House by 8:30 a.m. and encouraged to take the shuttle from the parking lot located behind the employee training building (first left off the interstate).

### **Sub-committee Updates:**

#### Public Information/Involving Communities, Families and Consumers

- Lynne Ihlstrom is unable to continue chairing this sub-committee
- Current focus is on Alzheimer's Legislative Awareness Day

#### Quality Improvement/Public Policy

- Patsy prepared and submitted bill H. 304 Vulnerable Missing Persons Alert for an individual who is impaired due to brain injury, cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, or a physical, mental, or developmental disability.
- The entire bill as introduced can be viewed on the legislative website <http://www.leg.state.vt.us>
- The bill may not be voted on during the current session

#### Infrastructure/Workforce

- Continuing efforts to expand membership of the sub-committee
- Discussed importance of involving primary care physicians to improve quality of dementia care, physicians' time constraints and reimbursement issues, concerns with cognitive screening and appropriate referrals
- Commission members provided names of physicians who may be interested in this initiative – Zale Berry, Marvin Klikunas
- Vermont Medical Society may be a forum to increase awareness/improve infrastructure for dementia care. The UVM Center on Aging is another likely resource.

Research/Emerging Issues

- Cliff Singer has recruited researchers to participate on this sub-committee and will provide more information at the next meeting.
- Cliff Singer indicated an interest in working with the Elder Care clinicians at Washington County Mental Health to increase supports for family caregivers

**Next Meeting: April 20, 2009** 10:00-12:00 noon; Weeks 1C Conference Room