

NEW JERSEY-ACT

Vision- The principle advocate in the state on behalf of the senior adults and disabled persons, including but not limited to, advisory participation in the consideration of legislation and regulations made by the state and federal departments and agencies, relating to programs and services that may effect senior adults and disable persons in the state of New Jersey.



MINUTES

Wednesday, October 1, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Morris County Division of Aging, Disability and Veterans Conference Room
340 West Hanover Avenue
Morristown, NJ

Meeting was called to order by Beverly Oliphant at 10:45.

Pat Bohse could not attend this meeting but did furnish us with the necessary stats to began a script for the communication strategy.

Campaign Update

- Petition distribution

Beverly Oliphant talked briefly about the many petitions that were signed at the Essex County Health and Wellness Day event. Warren County stated that they are holding on to their petitions until a course of action is determined. Lorraine Joewono informed us that if we should run out of the golden rod paper continue to get signatures, the directors will complete production on the golden rod paper.

- Campaign flyer produced by Mr. Shukla was passed around for feedback regarding information shown.
- Campaign script is to be developed by Dick Grabowsky. When we speak to our respective groups about our campaign, the script will help to provide the dialog about the campaign information.

AARP

A discussion ensue regarding forming a partnership with AARP to add additional weigh/push to the NJ-ACT Campaign. There were some concerns regarding the role that AARP would play in this campaign. They have a history of taking control and credit for programs once they become involved. We do need someone who is very strong, with a national presence and who can get the information out there, but we must be clear in explaining their role in the NJ-ACT Campaign. It is a NJ-Campaign and they are a supporting partner. It was decided that we should have them come in, to first let them know that we exist, what we are doing and how they can partner with us, but not to attend every meeting.

One means of using AARP would be to request a list of their clubs in the area and have NJ-ACT representatives go out and speak to their members. The County Directors should have a list of AARP clubs in their respective counties, Lorraine stated that Pat Bohse may be able to get this information for us.

It was also suggested that we request use of their name as a partner, in our communication strategies, and that they use NJ-ACT in their communications. We would like to ultimately sit down with AARP to draw up guidelines for the partnership.

It was suggested by Gloria Layne to invite a representative from AARP to talk to NJ-ACT about how they are advocating for the Older Americans Act, what are they doing, and how are they planning to advocate. Then we can decide whether we want to begin a partnership. Beverly Oliphant will invite the Legislative Director as a guest speaker to talk to us about what they are specifically doing on our behalf regarding the Older Americans Act, how they intend to advocate, and their campaign strategy.

A modified version of the Older Americans Act was distributed.

Cosmos talked about how a bill becomes a bill. We agreed that we should be aware, when bills are being considered that may be of concern to the senior adults in New Jersey. Bergen County representatives agreed to peruse the government website for such bills and to share this information with the council.

Question was raised about the Central and Southern Regions and their participation in the campaign. We were informed by Lorraine that they are reviewing minutes from the Northern Region and taking their agenda and moving forward with it too. Yes we are all moving in the same direction.

Committees

Communication Committee

Beverly Oliphant made an appeal for volunteers to work with Dick Grabowski on this committee. It was suggested that a scrapbook be created to document our activities, letters to editors etc., this information can be used when scheduling meetings with politicians. Gloria Timley agreed to collect information for scrapbook.

Legislative Committee

Bergen County representatives agreed to identify and share with the advisory council, proposed bills that will impact the quality of life for seniors in New Jersey and across the nation. The Advisory Council will decide whether we will advocate or not on any particular bill. This process is already in place in Bergen County.

NJ4A Directors Report

Lorraine is in contact with Pat Bohse who has already reached out to AARP in New Jersey to attend a future meeting, and she is awaiting a response. Lorraine also informed us that the NJ4A has put in for an advocacy grant from the New Jersey Foundation for Aging, for \$2,500.00 to have some funds to support our advocacy efforts. In addition avenues are currently being explored to provide funds for the council to advocate in Washington on *Capitol Hill Day*, April 2013. Capitol Hill Day is when the Directors go to Washington, DC to meet with our respective legislators one on one. Additional funding sources are being identified by NJ4A to allow council members to advocate in Washington on that same day.

Lorraine will speak with the association to determine how other areas, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, can participate in the New Jersey-ACT campaign and trip to Washington.

We will decide what to do with the petitions at the November 14th meeting, and develop an advocacy strategy to take place before January 2013.

Next meeting will be on November 14th.

“GET INTO THE ACT”