
DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc
840 Walker Rd
Dover, DE 19904

Final

Meeting of November 19, 2019
Minutes

Commission Member(s) Present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Christina Kontis, Esquire; Hooshang Shanehsaz; Lorraine Phillips, Ph.D., Catherine Hightower and Norma Jones. Karin Volker, Esquire, DOJ was also in attendance.

Commission members not in attendance: Karen Gallagher, Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Representative Kim William, Kyle Hodges, Cheryl Heiks, Dr. Michela Coffaro, Psy.D and Amy Milligan.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey; Colton Fleu, Esquire, CLASI; Chris Collins, Kentmere; Mark Letavish, DHCQ; Dava Newnam, DSAAPD; Melissa Smith, DSAAPD; Tomi Morris, DHCFA; Jill McCoy, LTCOP and Mark Brainard, Jr, JLOSC and Chantel Collie, LTCOP.

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM by Lisa Furber. All attendees introduced themselves.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting of:

The meeting minutes' draft of January 8, 2019, March 19, 2019, May 21, 2019, July 16, 2019 & September 17, 2019 were not voted upon due to lack of quorum.

3. Discussion of:

Elder Law Program – Community Legal Aid Society, Inc (CLASI)

Colton Fleu, Esquire, provided commission members with an update regarding CLASI's Elder Law Program (ELP), which provides limited legal assistance to Delawareans aged 60 years or older. The services provided by ELP are free of charge. There are no financial eligibility requirements for the Elder Law Program.

Mr. Fleu represents clients in Kent and Sussex Counties. Olga Beskrone, Esquire is responsible for services in New Castle County.

The Elder Law Program addresses civil matters and primary focus:

- Powers of Attorney
- Health Care Directives
- Exploitation

- Income at risk
- Housing
- Consumer issues (credit or benefits)

The Elder Law Program also conducts community legal education workshops for older people regarding some of the legal problems that occur with advancing age.

The Elder Law Program is a service partially funded under the Older Americans Act through the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.

Elder Law Program contact information:

302.575.0666 NCC
302.674.3684 Kent
302.856.4112 Sussex

4. Old/New Business:

FY 18 & 19 Annual Report

DNHRQAC 2018/2019 Annual Report draft was distributed to members for review. Due to lack of quorum, the annual report could not be finalized.

DNHRQAC By-Laws - draft

A copy of the DNHRQAC By-Laws draft was distributed to commission members. Ms. Bailey modified current by-laws to include changes from legislation passed in May 2019.

There was an open discussion about DNHRQAC by-laws regarding designee/proxy language, meeting attendance requirements, duties, etc.

Members were asked to review by-laws draft & forward comments to Ms. Bailey before the next commission meeting. DAG Karin Volker, Esquire will review proposed changes to by-laws draft.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy draft was distributed to commission members. Due to lack of quorum, the policy could not be finalized. Members were asked to review and forward comments to Ms. Bailey before January 2020 meeting.

Membership Quorum

There was discussion during last commission meeting about membership quorum. Karin Volker, Esquire provided clarification as to the number of commission members that need to be present to fulfill quorum requirements. A majority of the total membership of the commission constitutes a quorum. As a result, 8 of the 13 members must be in attendance for members to take official action during a meeting.

DNHRQAC Memberships

As of September 2019, all 13 DNHRQAC membership positions have been filled. Ms. Furber & Ms. Bailey have been meeting with newly appointed members to provide orientation and feedback.

Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC)

DNHRQAC was selected for JLOSC Review in CY 20. DNHRQAC will have an opportunity to provide testimony regarding JLOSC review - Feb/Mar 2020. Ms. Furber and Ms. Bailey prepared a letter of support and forwarded to stakeholders and others to provide sunset review awareness.

5. Public Comment

Residents Rights Rally

The Long Term Care Ombudsman's Program will host Residents Rights Rally on October 21, 2019 at Modern Maturity Center. The theme will be "Stand for Quality". Lt Governor Hall-Long and others will speak during the gathering to honor individuals living in LTC facilities throughout the state. Lisa Furber and Margaret Bailey plan to attend.

Dementia Conference

Delaware Valley Chapter of Alzheimer's Association will host their annual conference on November 20, 2019 at Delaware Technical & Community College – Del One Conference Center (Dover). This conference offers resources and educational breakout sessions for family members and professionals.

DHSS FY 21 Public Budget Hearing

Dr. Walker will present DHSS's FY 21 budget to Office of Management and Budget on November 19, 2019.

6. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 21, 2020 at Legislative Hall – Tatnall Building: 150 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd S Room 112 Dover, DE 19901 @ 9:30 am.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM by Lisa Furber.

Attachments: November 19, 2019 meeting agenda
Jan - September 2019 DNHRQAC meeting minutes' draft
2020 DNHRQAC meeting schedule draft
Conflict of Interest Policy draft
DNHRQAC By-Laws draft
DNHRQAC Member List / Contact Info
JLOSC Support Letter