



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

**OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION
OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES
VERN RIFFE CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 31ST FLOOR
WEST B & C CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

NAME

Judith Brachman
Marc Baumgarten
Andrew Capehart
Jodi Crowe
Joel Demory
Debra Downing
Frank Fleischer
Stephanie Graubner-Nelson
Christine Haenszel
Vicki Jenkins
Cindy Kuhr
Wayne Summerville
Adreana Tartt
John Thatcher
Karla Warren

REPRESENTING

Interests of the Elderly
Ohio Department of Mental Health
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Ohio Board of Nursing
Ohio Department of Insurance
County Commissioners Association of Ohio
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Supreme Court of Ohio
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Victim Witness Association
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services
Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Ohio Department of Aging

Ursel McElroy

Ohio Attorney General's Office

WELCOME – Ursel McElroy

- Opened the meeting by welcoming members.
- Agenda and housekeeping items reviewed.

REVIEW SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – Commission

- September 26, 2011 meeting minutes approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Commission

A. Capehart

- Andrew Capehart, has accepted the position as Assistant Director of the National Adult Protective Services Association. His resignation from the Franklin County Office on Aging is effective October 28, 2011. He will remain an active member of the Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Commission

Commission Structure

- The Attorney General issued letters to current Commission members, encouraging them to continue their commitment to the Commission's work. Invitation letters were also issued to the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Meeting minutes prepared by Ursel McElroy

(NCPEA), Ohio Board of Nursing (Board), and the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA). To date, IAFN, NCPEA, and the Board have accepted the invitation.

- Members reminded of new meeting structure. Effective 2012, meetings will be held every other month from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Scheduled dates are: February 27th, April 23rd, June 25th, August 27th, and October 22nd.

Status of Legislative Efforts

- A draft of the Ohio Elder Justice Act with the Commission's comments has been submitted to the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC). Outstanding questions from LSC staff were addressed by U. McElroy. An updated draft has not been released.

Position Paper

- Discussed the frequent concerns voiced during the public comment period about the guardianship process in Ohio. Guardianship matters are not within the scope of the Commission's work, but recognized as important. The Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship anticipates the release of updated standards next month. Following review of the standards, the Commission has recommended that the Attorney General issue a letter to the Subcommittee informing them of the systemic concerns reported to the Commission. The Supreme Court has not released the updated standards.

NEW BUSINESS – Commission

Research

- The principal researchers of the "Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study" have expressed interest in replicating a similar study in Ohio. Preliminary discussions have been initiated due to the interest generated by The Ohio Elder Abuse Research Symposium hosted by the Commission, May 16, 2011. A conference call has been scheduled for November 16, 2011.

Awareness Campaign

- K. Warren presented a draft of the elder abuse campaign brochure, utilizing the slogan "It Only Takes One". Members provided feedback about the artwork and messaging contained in the brochure. Warren agreed to make suggested changes and present an updated draft at the next meeting.

GUEST PRESENTATION – Sandra Huntzinger

- Sandra Huntzinger, Victim Services Coordinator of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, delivered a presentation about the Commission's role in: 1) the creation of a database of elder abuse expert witnesses and 2) the support of local interdisciplinary teams (I-Teams).

Expert Witnesses for Prosecutors

- Presentation highlights included (*handout distributed to members*):
 - The creation of an Ohio database of elder abuse expert witnesses.
 - The identification of experts that are representative of various disciplines.
 - The establishment of proposed criteria and competency requirements to qualify professionals as an expert.
 - The maintenance of the database necessary to ensure it's current, relevant, and accessible.
 - The development of a training component to keep expert witnesses engaged and current on providing testimony and related court matters.
- Commission members engaged in discussion with Huntzinger about topics noted above. The following was agreed:
 - J. Thatcher will inquire with the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association (OPAA) about any known elder abuse expert witnesses that have been qualified in court.

- U. McElroy will invite a representative from the Ohio Board of Regents to a future meeting to discuss institutions of higher learning as sources of expertise.
- Contacting the forensic centers licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Elder Abuse Forensic Centers throughout the country is a good start to developing criteria for the expert list.
- There is a great need to identify experts in assessing mental capacity.

Interdisciplinary Team (I-Teams)

- Presentation highlights included:
 - The vital role the Commission can have assisting local communities develop a coordinated community response to elder abuse.
 - The benefits and challenges communities often experience when developing an I-team.
- Commission members engaged in discussion with Huntzinger about topics noted above. The following was agreed:
 - The Commission will strategize on ways to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to local communities interested in developing an I-Team. Immediate ideas included sample memoranda of understanding and I-Team manuals.

ACTION STEPS

- Separate conference calls will be hosted by the Ohio Attorney General's Office on November 14, 2011 to discuss: 1) the awareness campaign 2) the database of elder abuse experts and 3) assistance to local I-Teams. Each member is expected to participate in at least one call.
- There is no Commission meeting scheduled for December. Written correspondence will resume in January, with the first meeting in 2012 scheduled February 27, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided.

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