



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

**OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION
AUGUST MEETING MINUTES
VERN RIFFE CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 31ST FLOOR
WEST B & C CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

NAME

Marc Baumgarten
Shelly Boyd
Judith Brachman
Jodi Crowe
Judy Dodge
Gene Fischer
Dan Fitzpatrick
Frank Fleischer
Christine Haenszel
Vicki Jenkins
Cindy Kuhr
Beverley Laubert
Leslie McGee
Stephanie Nelson
Valorie Prulhiere
Thomas Swift
Adreana Tartt
John Thatcher
Karla Warren

REPRESENTING

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Interests of the Elderly
Ohio Board of Nursing
County Commissioners Association of Ohio
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Ohio Attorney General's Office – Healthcare Fraud
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Victim Witness Association
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Supreme Court of Ohio
International Association of Forensic Nurses
Ohio Association of Probate Judges
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Ohio Department of Aging

Ursel McElroy

Ohio Attorney General's Office – Commission Staff/Lead

WELCOME – Ursel McElroy

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

REVIEW MEETING MINUTES – Commission

- June 24, 2013 meeting minutes approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Commission

- None

CHAIR'S REPORT – Ursel McElroy

Public Comment

- The Commission's concern about elder abuse is not limited to any one particular entity. Rather it is charged with supporting and, where appropriate, enhancing the efforts of many that interact with elder abuse victims and their families.
- It is important that the Commission make every effort to obtain input from a wide range of sources.

Meeting minutes prepared jointly by Carolyn Bevins and Ursel McElroy

- There was consensus on the following:
 - Invite professionals from various disciplines to the October meeting to share their experiences and suggestions about the system's response to elder abuse.
 - Formalize the process by developing a set of questions for the participants to answer.

Criminal Investigation and Prosecution

- Criminal investigations and prosecutions are rarely initiated in elder abuse cases. The lack of coordination between APS and the criminal justice system along with limited resources and specialization have contributed to this issue.
- Creating access to basic criminal justice services for older victims should be a priority for the commission. Ursel M. is involved with a case that may result in prosecution. The progression of the case may be instructive for future cases.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – Commission

Justice Subcommittee – V. Jenkins, Chair

- Subcommittee has begun its work examining financial exploitation in estate planning. Both prevention and intervention strategies will be addressed.

Education & Awareness Subcommittee – Vacant, Chair

- Subcommittee does not have a Chair. Ursel M. will serve as Acting Chair until the position is filled.

Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Subcommittee – M. Baumgarten, Chair

- Subcommittee has made significant progress integrating a module on mental illness into an existing elder abuse curriculum for law enforcement. Trainers for the segment have been identified.
- Subcommittee has \$50,000 to help plan and deliver the trainings throughout Ohio. The funds will be used to pay trainers and offer scholarships.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Commission

Legislative Update – U. McElroy

- Dan Fitzpatrick, Acting Deputy Director of ODJFS Office of Legislation, met with staff from the offices of Representatives Dovilla and Retherford to discuss H.B. 49 (the Ohio Elder Justice Act). Fitzpatrick acknowledged that there are good elements of the bill, but funding a registry is a primary concern for ODJFS.
- The fiscal note for H.B. 49 is vague and estimates “millions” to develop a registry that maintains data on all reports of elder abuse received by APS, whether investigated or not.
- ODJFS proposes to amend H.B. 49 by removing language that would require ODJFS to develop a registry. Replacement language would require ODJFS to determine the cost of a registry. Amended language is expected to be delivered to Representatives Dovilla and Retherford within the week.

NEW BUSINESS – Commission

Community Voices Initiative

- The Attorney General's Healthcare Fraud Section has launched a new initiative that uses covert video surveillance (“nanny cams”) to uncover abuse in facilities.
- The initiative will help identify facilities and corporations with long-term systemic issues as opposed to just targeting individuals.
- Christine H. updated the Commission on a community forum that was hosted in July to solicit input.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Subcommittees met to complete outstanding tasks.

ADJOURN

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