

**DRAFT MINUTES****ALZHEIMER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL****Room B, Multi-Agency Complex (MAC), Little Rock, Arkansas****Wednesday July 6, 2016**

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The Alzheimer's Advisory Council met Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Room B, of the Multi-Agency Complex Building (MAC), Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Legislative members in attendance:** Senators Gary Stubblefield, Co-Chair; and Linda Collins-Smith. Representative Nelda Speaks, Co-Chair.

**Non-legislative members in attendance:** Dr. Becky Adams, Ms. Betsy Arnold, Dr. Steve Barger, Ms. Elizabeth Blankenship, Mr. Craig Cloud, Dr. Charlie Green, Ms. Cat Hamilton (For Ms. Rachel Davis), Ms. Robin LeGuin, Ms. Crystal McCarty, Ms. Susan Neyman, Dr. Mark Pippenger, and Ms. Kathy Short.

Representative Speaks called the meeting to order.

**CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRS TO APPROVE SPECIAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL [EXHIBIT D]**

**Representative Speaks made a motion to authorize chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Senator Collins-Smith, and without objection, the motion carried.**

**ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE [EXHIBIT E]**

**Ms. LeGuin made a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Barger, and without objection the motion carried.**

**Mr. Jesse Hays, Russellville, AR,** was recognized and presented a PowerPoint presentation addressing the importance of silver alert notifications. **[EXHIBIT G]**

He stated there are currently 9 active Silver Alerts in Arkansas, and statistics show if Alzheimer's patients are not found within the first 24 hours, there is a 50% likelihood the situation will end in serious injury or death. The flow of information is crucial for quicker recovery. The Arkansas State Police through mutual agreement with the Arkansas Sheriff's Association and the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police host a website for the public to receive Morgan Nick, Amber and Silver Alert text/email notifications, however you must go to their website and register for these alerts. Most people are unaware of where to find Silver Alerts. He is currently researching a free App to broadcasts all of these types of alerts, allowing more people to become aware in a timely manner.

Ms. Neyman stated one of the recommendations in the Arkansas State Plan on Alzheimer's is to establish a Patients Safety and Education Grant Program to provide financial assistance and promote public awareness of technologies and programs, therefore, she anticipates the Council addressing the issue of Silver Alerts at future meetings.

Senator Collins-Smith stated she would like to hear from law enforcement at a future meeting concerning procedures for handling Silver Alerts.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Advisory Council will meet on August 23, 2016, and September 7, 2016, at 10 a.m., Room B, MAC, Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Senator Stubblefield asked if there any breakthroughs in the causes or potential cures of Alzheimer's.

Dr. Barger stated the consensus is primarily investing in immunotherapy for treatment. Testing has shown for 15 years that teaching the immune system to attack this disease in order to prevent it from attacking the patient is the best regimen. Early detection is another other primary focus in research, because once a person has developed symptoms they have already lost enough brain tissue that it is very difficult to regain brain function. Imaging such Position Emission Tomography (PET) scans can detect the earliest signs of disease sometimes 10 years before symptoms appear. The only obstacle is cost. To help research locally, it would be ideal if Arkansas could assist in building facilities for tissue storage and developing better communication amongst physicians about the disease and early detection.

Dr. Pippenger stated research suggests multiple causes of the disease, such as inflammatory, viral, autoimmune and genetics, and that early detection is crucial.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.