

**MINUTES**

**ALZHEIMER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Room B, Multi- Agency Complex (MAC), Little Rock, Arkansas**

**Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

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The Alzheimer's Advisory Council met Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Room B, of the Multi-Agency Complex Building (MAC), Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Legislative Members in Attendance:** Representative Nelda Speaks, Co-Chair and Representative Tim Lemons.

**Non- Legislative Members in Attendance:** Dr. Becky Adams, Dr. Steve Barger, Ms. Elizabeth Blankenship, Mr. Craig Cloud, Ms. Cat Hamilton (on behalf of Ms. Rachel Davis), Ms. Robin LeGuin, Ms. Susan Neyman, and Dr. Mark Pippenger.

Representative Nelda Speaks called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve August 23, 2016, Meeting Minutes [EXHIBIT C]**

**Mr. Cloud made a motion to approve the August 23, 2016, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blankenship, and without objection, the motion carried.**

**Discussion from Agencies Concerning Programs and Funding Available for Alzheimer's Disease**

**Dr. Becky Adams, Director, Partnership and Policy Support, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH),** was recognized and provided an overview of issues such as healthy brain initiative, chronic disease coalition, cognitive impairment data surveillance, integration of cognitive health into public health, healthy aging and brain initiative road maps.

Dr. Adams stated the Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordinating Council is very helpful in coordinating messages to help reduce chronic diseases in addition to Alzheimer's disease. The council consists of representatives from each Arkansas Department of Health Chronic Disease Program, representatives from the Arkansas statewide chronic disease related coalitions and other statewide organizations with policy or service provision responsibilities related to chronic diseases.

**Mr. Craig Cloud, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS),** was recognized. He stated the mission of the Division of Aging and Adult Services is to ensure individuals who need services have access, and that those services are effectively provided in the most appropriate settings to meet the needs of the individuals. This

mission is accomplished with the help of strategic partners and programs who assist in providing various services and programs such as nursing homes, assisted living and waiver programs. The Elder Choices program and the Alternatives for Adults with Physical Disabilities program were combined and are now known as ARChoices. This program offers the elderly and individuals with disabilities options for in-home care.

Mr. Cloud stated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) and Arkansas Health Care Association (AHCA) to improve long-term services and supports. One of the objectives in the MOU was Smart Rebalancing, which is a smart rebalancing of the state's long-term care services to ensure the supports and services in the community are cost effective, effectively serve transitions among care settings, and eliminate fragmentation and duplication in service coordination and delivery.

Representative Lemons asked what could be done from a legislative standpoint to bring awareness to Alzheimer's and dementia and increase support services for family members.

Mr. Cloud stated he anticipates the Alzheimer's Advisory Council will work with the General Assembly in the 2017 legislative session concerning these issues.

**Mr. Jay Hill, Director, Arkansas Health Center, Dr. Megan Edwards, Clinical Director, Arkansas Health Center, and Dr. Charlie Green, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Arkansas Department of Human Services,** were recognized. Mr. Hill gave a brief overview of the center. He stated the Arkansas Health Center, formerly known as the Benton Services Center is a 290-bed psychiatric nursing home licensed by the Office of Long-Term Care. This facility emphasizes the provision of services to the elderly and persons with disabilities who require specialized services or programs that are not generally available through community nursing facilities.

**Discussion Concerning Draft Assessments and Recommendations for Meeting the Alzheimer's Needs in Arkansas, to be submitted to the Joint Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee on or before October 1, 2016**

Advisory Council members stated due to time restraints, they would not be able to provide the Draft Assessments and Recommendations for Meeting the Alzheimer's needs in Arkansas to the Joint Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee on or before October 1, as required by the enacting legislation. However, the advisory council would provide a Preliminary Report to the Joint Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee at its October 10, 2016, meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.