

MINUTES

ALZHEIMER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Room B, Multi- Agency Complex (MAC), Little Rock, Arkansas
Thursday, September 22, 2016

The Alzheimer's Advisory Council met Thursday, September 22, 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.

Non- Legislative Members in Attendance: Dr. Becky Adams, Ms. Elizabeth Blankenship, Ms. Rachel Davis, Mr. Steven Guntharp, Ms. Robin Leguin, Ms. Susan Neyman, Dr. Mark Pippenger

Other Legislators Present: Representative Sue Scott.

Representative Nelda Speaks called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Ms. Rachel Davis, Executive Director, Arkansas Health Care Association, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining Arkansas Health Care Association's (AHCA) role as it relates to nursing home facilities providing Alzheimer's and dementia care. [**Handout 1**]

Ms. Davis stated AHCA provides educational training, education and assistance to care facilities across the state, promoting high-quality care for patients and strict professional standards for staff. AHCA also strives to cooperate with the state legislature and the Office of Long Term Care to improve the quality of life in nursing homes.

Dr. Angela Norman, Associate Director, Arkansas Aging Initiative, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, was recognized and stated their partnership with AHCA focuses on providing tools to certain nursing homes that have a high usage rate of antipsychotic drugs in treating Alzheimer's and dementia patients. The Initiative received a grant for approximately \$7.9 million to replicate the caregiver training program, which is designed to educate and train individuals to be in-home caregivers. The Initiative is currently developing programs to create dementia friendly communities, a caregiver success program, and improvement of long term care.

Dr. Susan Neyman, Executive Director, Arkansas Alzheimer's Association, was recognized and gave an overview of services provided by the Arkansas Alzheimer's Association. She stated there are numerous resources available through the association for support groups and family caregivers. They also have training for paraprofessionals, first responders and online tools for physicians.

Ms. Robin LeGuin, Director, Alzheimer's Care, Courtyard Gardens Health and Rehabilitation, addressed the advisory council from her perspective as director of an Alzheimer's care unit. She emphasized the need for staff development training and education for facilities. She also stated Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training hours should be increased, particularly if they are caring for dementia or Alzheimer's patients.

Ms. Elizabeth Blankenship, President and Owner, Southridge Village Assisted Living, was recognized and stated she has been the owner of the Southridge Village Assisted Living facility since 1994. Currently, there are four (4) facilities, each with an Alzheimer's care wing. She also believes CNA's should be required to receive specific training focused on Alzheimer's and dementia care. She stated her facilities have established programs to educate family members and staff on the reduction of antipsychotics.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:29 p.m.