

Home Care and Assisted Living Program Advisory Council Meeting Notes – Monday, May 23, 2022

Attendees

Council members: Sue Boyd, Mariclaire England, Genevieve Gaboriault, Nancy Haugen, Susan Morgan, and Jarrod Peterson

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): Lindsey Krueger and Daphne Ponds

Public: Many attendees via conference call

Guests: Doug Beardsley, Robert Freeman, Nicole Mattson, Mollie O'Brien, Jill Schewe and Heidi Simpson

Agenda

- Welcome
- Review Social Isolation Grant Awardee Survey Responses
- Discuss Possible Future Grant Opportunities
 - Dementia Training Funding
 - Other
- Next Steps

Welcome

Lindsey Krueger welcomed the Council Members. Council Members were unmuted and encouraged to speak freely while public attendees were muted to reduce distractions but were encouraged to place any comments or questions in the chat feature.

Lindsey reviewed the agenda – please see coinciding PowerPoint presentation. The possibility of meeting in person was mentioned. MNIT is currently working on technology to allow groups to meet in combination, until then, it will remain 100% remote or 100% in person. Lindsey reminded the group about HRD's ALL Together bi-monthly newsletter and provided a link for anyone interested in subscribing. Daphne Ponds was introduced as the new Executive Regional Operations Manager for State Operations, replacing Lindsey, as she takes on the Assistant Division Director role and explained what the transition would look like for the council.

Social Isolation Grant Feedback

A survey was sent out to all recipients of the original Social Isolation Grant asking for feedback on what they purchased, any challenges they faced, any future support they would like to see and any positive outcomes. Lindsey shared some highlights with the group and expressed that the stories really hit home and loved hearing how the residents benefited. Even though there were challenges to the process, we learned a lot and it will only get easier from here.

- Jarrod: Great feedback! It makes it worth it to hear positive feedback. Nothing is never smooth the first time.
- Nancy: Heartwarming! Loved the story of the grandchild's drawings.

- Genevieve: This is wonderful. We take our smart phones for granted.
- Sue: I think the grant accomplished what we had hoped (with regards to video visits) and hope it can continue.
- Nancy: I think it provided caregivers a chance to learn more about the residents which enhances life.
- Susan: Staff got a chance to use the technology to order items like supplies which allowed them to increase their efficiency.

Lindsey was proud of the council for using the funds and wanted to know if they were up for doing it again. How do we continue to give back and help the residents? As of 5/23/2022 there was approximately \$1,781,000 in the fund.

Dementia Care Training

Dementia Care Training Team:

- Doug Beardsley – Care Providers
- Robert Freeman – Alzheimer Association
- Nicole Mattson – Care Providers
- Mollie O’Brien – Alzheimer Association
- Jill Schewe – Care Providers
- Heidi Simpson – Leading Age

Based on the numbers of people living with dementia, this group’s goal is to help increase the capabilities of staff working in assisted living facilities. They are hoping, with the help of the Advisory Council, to create a needs based scholarship for those providing dementia care training to their staff (as required by statute). They don’t want cost to be a barrier. They would use funds to create a needs based scholarship for trainers. They would recommend two trainers per facility licensed as an ALFDC and one trainer per facility licensed as an ALF. They want to know if the Advisory Council is interested.

- Doug: Great opportunity to impact weaknesses found in the field, one of those being training in dementia.
- Nancy: Likes the idea of a scholarship but questions the individual’s commitment to it and suggested cost splitting instead of paying the entire fee.
 - Mollie: The investment in training also includes time, not just money.
- Susan: Wants to understand the goals of the proposal. What problem are we trying to solve? Are providers ready for this right now? Balancing additional requirements with caring for residents while staffing is currently an issue.
 - Mollie: How do we remove barriers to a requirement that is already in place? Or maybe its funding to get their own training reviewed and approved.
- Sue: Do we like what the options are and the cost? Do we know where the training is occurring?
 - Lindsey: MDH doesn’t collect data on where people are getting trained. MDH has authority to approve the training.
- Doug: It’s not the curriculums we have out there, but how do we get more people trained. If you have only one certified trainer and they leave, you’re left without a “bench”.
- Mollie: Folks want training that is easy and accessible.

- Heidi: According to a survey, providers like live virtual training, live and in person and they also like the opportunity to access training on their own.
- Mariclaire: When you look at statute, there is no timeframe, only hope that they get trained sooner than later. Would like to see how this can continue as staffing is not going to get better. How could the scholarship help set up a system? Would like to see what the requirements are.
 - Jill: Per 144G.64 training must be done within a certain timeframe of onboarding.
- Jarrod: The request was about building a bench, not debating what was in statute or the content of the training.
- Mollie: We are willing to put a slide deck together for the council and present it at your next meeting if we have your support to move forward.
- Jarrod: Who “owns” the certification – the facility or the person?
 - Jill: Training goes with the person.
- Jarrod: I would be very interested in hearing more about this. Our task in to improve the delivery of care in Minnesota and I think this speaks to that, just like the Social Isolation Grant.
- Genevieve: What are the costs and time involved for this? Is there an actual need for a grant or is this more of a “nice to have”?
- Sue: The cost of the training is so low the application process would need to be quick and easy.
- Jill: I think training is also valuable for home care providers.

Discussion

Lindsey asked the Advisory Council what general things they would like to know about ahead of time when folks approached them with idea.

- Genevieve: I would like to see a broader RFP process.
- Nancy: I agree. Not that we wouldn't consider this proposal, but I would like to see some framework for future proposals.
- Jarrod: I think we should consider the proposal that is in front of us and then develop the other process.
- Sue: I agree. I would also like to revise the Social Isolation Grant.

Social Isolation Grant Revision Ideas

- Can't be awarded a second time to prioritize those that didn't get it before.
- Increase amount to \$5000 (total of 30 grants).
- Approve in the order received until the funds allotted are gone plus must be 100% complete to qualify.
- Hold on to remaining applications for future rounds of funding.
- Equitable between facility sizes.
- Funds apply to future project only.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 21 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Agenda:

- Alzheimer's Association Proposal
- Finalize Social Isolation Grant – Round 2
- RFP Process

Minnesota Department of Health
Health Regulation Division
PO Box 3879
St. Paul, MN 55101-3879
651-201-4200
health.homecare@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

05/23/2022

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4101.