

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sylvia Banville, Dr. Jean Caudle, Don Griesbach, Roger Jaeger, Ann Jungwirth, Joyce Klundt, Donna Lohry, Patty Maehl, and Esther Walling

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Seniors Center; Sylvia Bull, Menasha Senior Center, Deb Tauer, Advocap RSVP; Terri Stern, Advocap Nutrition Program; Candace Corbett, Joan Jaworski, and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Human Services Department

GUESTS PRESENT: Kathy Makowski & Peggy Jankowski, Home Instead Senior Care

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

**A. Welcome and introductions – Esther Walling**

Esther welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**B. Adoption of agenda/additions**

Esther Walling asked for approval of the agenda. With no changes, the agenda was approved unanimously (9-0).

**C. Approval of minutes of the November 26, 2008 meeting**

With no additions or corrections, Roger Jaeger moved for approval; seconded by Don Griesbach and carried unanimously (9-0).

**II. REPORTS:**

**A. City Committees**

Dr. Jean Caudle – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Jean said that among the many exciting activities at the Seniors Center there will be a Women's Wellness Retreat on Sunday, February 22 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Ann Jungwirth – Oshkosh Committee on Aging:

Ann suggested that everyone should have a 2009 Senior Resource Guide as it is very helpful and contains all the information a senior would need. She said it is very well done.

Sylvia Bull – Menasha Senior Center:

Sylvia said they are planning activities for the year. They will continue with the health screenings, and there will be a colorectal screening in February. They are in the process of planning trips for this year. Sylvia said that they will focus on having about seven large gatherings throughout the year instead of one every month, and will have smaller activities on alternating months. They will be promoting the Senior Resource Guide and the Menasha Senior Center program Directory, which is prepared in conjunction with the Neenah/Menasha YMCA.

Patty Maehl – Neenah Committee on Aging:

Patty reported that she attended the recent TRIAD meeting, which will now be called SALT (Seniors & Law Enforcement Together) to promote safety and crime prevention for seniors. She said they discussed the File of Life emergency medical kits and the importance of keeping the information current for the file.

Mark Ziemer – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Mark distributed a Caregiver Coalition brochure which lists local, state and national resources for caregivers. He thanked the Commission for its support of the Caregiver Coalition and for the funding that has allowed the coalition to conduct an annual conference.

Moosey Goljenboom – Pickett Community Center:

Moosey was excused from today's meeting.

**B. Winnebago County Retired Senior & Volunteer Program – Deb Tauer**

Deb distributed the RSVP 2008 accomplishment report. She said volunteers distributed 1,918 File of Life kits during the year. They are working with the SALT program in starting a phone buddy program in Winnebago County. They had 32 participants at the last breakfast circle. It offers a chance to learn about volunteer opportunities. Deb said that volunteers would help distribute some of the Senior Resource Guides to various agencies in the community. The RSVP will host a "Keep Your Heart Healthy" party on February 26 at the Coughlin Center from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**C. Nutrition Advisory Council – Theresa Stern**

Terri said they provided 124,531 meals to 1,400 individuals in 2008. She said they were closed three days in January due to bad weather, which is more than their usual one day per year. Terri said they have been serving the target population that they are required to serve. She referred to survey results from November 2008, which shows that the participants are dependent on the meals they receive through the program. She said overall it indicates they are filling a real need. They recently applied to the United Way for a grant for approximately \$40,000 to service the northern part of the county for the next two years.

**D. County Board – Don Griesbach**

Don said the County Board will be looking at remodeling or duplicating the space that is needed for several departments to relocate to the old Park View Health Center.

**E. Human Services Board – Don Griesbach/Donna Lohry**

Donna said she and several members of the Human Services Board recently attended a conference in Stevens Point and reported that Wisconsin is number one in the country as having AODA issues with its children and young adults. She is hoping we increase AODA awareness in Winnebago County.

Donna attended a session regarding mentally ill individuals who end up in jail, many times because they stop taking their medications and become active in their disease. She suggests that Human Services might have a facility to place affected residents temporarily while they are stabilized on their medications.

**F. Benefit Specialist – Candace Corbett**

Candace said they are continuing to handle phone calls regarding Medicare Part D issues. She said that at the advice of CWAG, the benefit specialists will no longer be assisting seniors with Homestead Tax Credit applications because the forms have become more complicated relative to medical expenses. They are recommending that seniors see tax preparers that offer assistance at senior centers free of charge. Candace said she and Joan Jaworski are working in collaboration with other agencies in preparing a Resource Fair again this fall. The focus will be on “dollars and sense.” The tentative date is Saturday, October 3, from 8:00 until noon. Candace will start a new series of public forums in March regarding specific topics leading up to the Resource Fair.

**G. Bay Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors – Roger Jaeger**

Roger distributed applications for the GWAAR Board. Members will serve one three-year term. Everyone on the Commission is eligible to apply for the position.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Program – Winnebago County’s Adult Foster Family Care & Volunteer Guardianship Programs – Kathy Stark, Coordinator**

Kathy explained that the primary focus of the Adult Foster Family Care program is to certify family homes to provide care for people who are unable to live in their own home or who choose not to live in a group home setting. The program started in 1967 with a federal grant to develop residential care primarily for people who had been institutionalized. The program has been expanded to include individuals with a mental illness, developmental disabilities, and the elderly. The program not only provides a place to live, but the residents become part of the family. Kathy said there are currently 28 certified family care homes in Winnebago County that provide care to 37 residents. She shared other statistics of the program. She said respite care is available to relieve the care providers. Kathy explained that a family is certified after they are screened and the home meets the state regulatory standards.

Kathy explained the two types of guardians in the Guardianship Program. The Human Services Department contracts with several agencies to be corporate guardians for consumers that typically don’t have a family, but perhaps have an estate. The volunteer guardian is appointed through the court process as guardian of finances or guardian of the person. Training is offered for the volunteer guardians. A monthly fee is paid to the pool guardians. Kathy can be contacted at 236-4664 for more information.

**B. Comments – Visitors and Guests**

Peggy Jankowski said that every year Home Instead Senior Care operates the “Be a Santa to a Senior” program. She said they brought Christmas to 374 seniors in the Fox Valley last year.

**C. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Commission on Aging will be held Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Oshkosh Human Services Building, located at 220 Washington Avenue.**

E. With no further business, Roger Jaeger moved for adjournment; seconded by Ann Jungwirth and carried at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary—Human Services Department