

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 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: Moosey Goljenboom, Pickett Community Center; Terri Stern, Advocap Nutrition Program; Joan Jaworski, Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Human Services Department

GUESTS PRESENT: Pat Valentyn, Lutheran Social Services

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

Mark Weisensel said Sylvia Bull is unable to attend the meeting today. With that change to the agenda, Patty Maehl moved for approval; seconded by Ann Jungwirth and carried (8-0). Lohry not present yet.

C. Approval of minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting

With no additions or corrections, Don Griesbach moved for approval; seconded by Ann Jungwirth and carried unanimously (8-0).

II. REPORTS:

A. City Committees

Dr. Jean Caudle – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Jean said that among the many activities planned for March at the Seniors Center there will be a “Conscious Eating” program on Saturday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person

Ann Jungwirth – Oshkosh Committee on Aging:

Ann reminded everyone about the upcoming CWAG Convention. Ann said she received a letter regarding scams to seniors. She will invite a speaker to give a presentation about scams at an upcoming senior fair.

Sylvia Bull – Menasha Senior Center:

Sylvia was excused from the meeting. Joyce Klundt said tax assistance is offered to seniors every Wednesday at the Menasha Senior Center. The Senior Center will host a Chop Suey Dinner and a Spring Banquet in April.

Patty Maehl – Neenah Committee on Aging:

Patty reported that she attended a Housing Authority meeting and a combined meeting of the Winnebago County and City of Oshkosh Housing Committees. She said they are looking for new office space.

Moosey Goljenboom – Pickett Community Center:

Moosey said they had a Chili Supper on February 14 with double the number of people attending as last year. On March 5 a travel agent will give a presentation on one-day trips available in Wisconsin. March 21 will be Pizza Day at the Center; March 27 will be Casino Day. Moosey said meal site participation is increasing.

Roger Jaeger

Roger handed out a report from the BAAA. He said Steve Volkert has resigned his position as director of the Omro Community Center. Roger said Steve is to be commended for the fine job he did. Roger said there will be dance classes for children and adults offered at the Center. On March 22 there will be a Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Texas Holdem is becoming a big event at the Center.

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

Deb was excused from today's meeting.

C. Nutrition Advisory Council – Theresa Stern

Terri said they served 9,693 meals in December. She said they will try to keep more of the public meal sites open during bad weather, particularly where the seniors live. In the past, they've closed the program when the schools close. If the roads are dangerous, they will cancel the home-delivered meals and will not provide meals where seniors must drive to get to the program site. Terri said they will be distributing "emergency meals" to meal participants. The meals have a shelf life of 6-10 months. Terri said program attendance has been going up. Home delivered meals in the Neenah/Menasha area are at capacity, and there are waiting lists. Each driver is delivering meals to about 30 seniors per day.

Esther Walling moved the program portion of the meeting to be next on the agenda.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Program – Lutheran Social Services Mental Health Counseling Program

Pat Valentyn is a mental health counselor with LSS. She works at the Thompson Community Center and the Oshkosh Seniors Center. She said there is a division in our attitude about physical health and mental health. The topic of mental health is a barrier of her connecting with people.

She said there are certain attitudes about mental health that are entrenched in seniors. She said there are individuals that have some experiences from the past that should be dealt with and processed. Counseling is a process where the counselor and the individual work together to rediscover their own strengths and resources in an environment of trust. Pat said she counsels people over age 50 and also their caregivers. She said are trying to organize a caregiver support group at the Seniors Center. They offer in-home counseling to older adults whose mobility is limited. They don't bill insurance companies, but they operate on a sliding fee donation scale. They don't turn people away if they can't afford to pay. Pat said we need to break down those attitudes and impressions of taking care of our mental health.

Pat said she assesses the needs of an individual and tries to connect the person with whatever is needed to resolve a problem. Solutions can sometimes include talk therapy, meditation, and medication. Pat said that in collaboration with Affinity Health they will be starting a weekly support group at Mercy Medical Center and St. Elizabeth's Hospital for caregivers of people who are in hospice.

D. County Board – Don Griesbach

Don said the County Board will be looking again at Courthouse security, which will depend on funding from the federal stimulus package. The Board will be discussing which county departments will occupy the Pleasant Acres facility.

E. Human Services Board – Don Griesbach/Donna Lohry

Donna said that she, Don Griesbach, and several Human Service Board members, attended a recent WCHSA (Wisconsin County Human Services Association) meeting. She said they learned that adults without children will be able to enroll in Badger Care Plus for medical coverage starting in June for a cost of \$60 or \$75, depending on their income. There will be a co-payment involved. There might be a waiting period in certain situations.

F. Benefit Specialist – Joan Jaworski

Joan said they are hoping that Senior Care will continue, but it will depend on monies appropriated for the program. There will possibly be a stimulus rebate again for people who receive disability and social security. The process should be simplified from last year. Joan said there will be a change in divestment and spousal impoverishment rules. There will be a five-year look back period for people wanting to become Medicaid eligible for nursing home coverage. The three-month penalty period starts the day a person applies for Medicaid.

G. Supervisor – Mark Weisensel

Mark distributed a copy of the 2009 Senior Resource Directory to each Commission member. He said he updated the directory from last year, and the Oshkosh Northwestern coordinated the ads. Mark said copies of the directory will be distributed as usual to various agencies throughout the county. There were 10,000 copies printed for free by the Oshkosh Northwestern, saving over \$12,000 in Winnebago County dollars.

Mark also distributed a copy of the 2009 Transportation Brochure. The services are listed according to areas of the county where the rider lives.

Mark said he served on a Valley Transit II evaluation team to choose the para-transit provider. He said four providers applied, and Running Incorporated of Viroqua, Wisconsin was unanimously approved to be the provider starting April 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011. Mark said they have a very good track record around the state.

Mark referred to the letter depicting the Specialized Transportation Council's accomplishments during 2009.

Mark said money was approved in the Governor's budget to start Family Care in Winnebago, Manitowoc, and Fond du Lac counties. It should be starting up in 2010 after the Aging and Disability Resource Center is in operation. The County Board will hopefully be acting on a resolution at its April meeting. Mark said he serves on two committees for Family Care.

B. Comments – Visitors and Guests

There were no comments

C. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Commission on Aging will be held Wednesday, March 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