

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 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: Sylvia Bull, Menasha Senior Center; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Seniors Center; Deb Tauer, Advocap RSVP; Terri Stern, Nutrition Program; Candace Corbett, Joan Jaworski, Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Human Services Department

GUESTS PRESENT: Carol Frahm, 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

Today's meeting agenda was approved unanimously with no changes (9-0).

C. Approval of minutes of the April 22, 2009 meeting

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

II. REPORTS:

A. City Committees

Dr. Jean Caudle – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Jean pointed out that the Fall Family Fun Fest will take place on September 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will also be a time to celebrate Grandparents Day.

Ann Jungwirth – Oshkosh Committee on Aging:

Ann referred everyone to the monthly Senior Doings booklet which explains the activities taking place at the Seniors Center and in the community. Ann said the upcoming CWAG Convention will have a workshop on long term care. She is looking forward to attending that session as a representative of the Winnebago County Commission on Aging and the Long Term Support Advisory Committee.

Sylvia Bull – Menasha Senior Center:

Sylvia said the Center was recently accredited. She said they will be hosting a Red, White, & Blue Party in July. They continue to do health screenings each month, with the exception of July. They will offer Steps to Healthy Aging program in June and July. Sylvia said a Wii computer remote was donated to the Center.

Patty Maehl – Neenah Committee on Aging:

Patty reminded everyone that they are members of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG). She said there haven't been any recent meetings of the Neenah Committee on Aging, so has no report.

Moosey Goljenboom – Pickett Community Center:

Moosey was excused from today's meeting.

Roger Jaeger

Roger handed out the minutes of the February Executive Board meeting of the Bay Area Agency on Aging (BAAA). He said they are bringing things to a close at the BAAA and will move assets to the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR).

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

Deb said their grant year will end on June 30. They surpassed their goal by having 316 volunteers on board. They provided 22,652 hours for 63 agencies. They distributed 500 resource directories to 15 agencies, and some will be distributed during various presentations at the area senior centers. They have four matches for the Phone Buddy program, and one more is close to being approved. Deb said RSVP staff recently attended the Wisconsin Volunteer Coordination Association training in La Crosse where they learned more about evaluating their program. They will be doing more intense recruiting and have written job descriptions for all volunteer opportunities offered through RSVP. Deb said they will have a picnic in July, and the annual Volunteer Banquet will be held on September 29 at LaSure's Banquet Hall. They are collaborating with the Public Health Department to have a database of volunteers that would be available in case of an emergency in the county.

C. Nutrition Advisory Council – Theresa Stern

Terri distributed the January through May 2009 statistical report for the Nutrition Program. She said they served almost 528 meals per day. The increase in home-delivered meals has been greater than those at the group meal sites. The average contribution per meal has remained lower than it was in 2008, which is probably due to the downturn in the economy. Terri said that according to her projection they will serve 130,000 meals this year, which would be 5,000 more than last year.

Terri referred to a document listing what should be done to prepare older adults and people with special needs in case of a disaster. Part of the plan will be for seniors to have their "File of Life" packet updated and posted on their refrigerator. Terri said they will be sending out a letter to all home-delivered and congregate meal recipients explaining the "Prepare Now" plan and the process to be followed.

D. County Board – Don Griesbach

Don reported that several county committees have looked at the Oshkosh B’Gosh building as a possible purchase and location of some county departments. A resolution has been prepared for the County Board to allow the Facilities Department to provide a professional study of the building.

E. Human Services Board – Don Griesbach/Donna Lohry

Donna said expenses for mental health services continue to go up. She said she serves on the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Planning Committee as it moves forward with the ADRC. The Board of Directors of the Lakeland District will be comprised of three representatives of Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties. Donna reported that she attended a recent WCHSA (Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association) meeting which was very worthwhile.

F. Benefit Specialist – Candace Corbett

Candace said she and Joan Jaworski attended the annual Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists Conference. The conferences prove to be a good networking opportunity and the workshops are excellent. Candace said the “Dollars & Sense” presentations that she did in May and June were well attended. She hopes to repeat the same workshops regarding the available benefit programs and how seniors become eligible for them. She will also continue the monthly presentations of “What to Do When You Turn 65.” They will be held in Menasha on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and in Oshkosh on the 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Candace said she is working on new presentations for this fall regarding Medicare savings programs and low-income subsidy programs. Candace said there would be no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security in 2010, and it is projected that there will be none until 2013. Applications for the BadgerCare Plus program started June 15, and the program will begin July 15 for individuals aged 19-64 who don’t have children. Those individuals who are eligible for Medicaid are not eligible for BadgerCare Plus. Candace explained that the benefit specialists will be at the new food pantry on Jackson Street once per month to promote the Food Share program.

G. Supervisor – Mark Weisensel

Mark said he has been asked to attend an Elderly & Disabled Transportation National Conference in Washington, D.C. on July 13-15. The trip will be completely paid by the sponsors of the conference, the National Easter Seals Foundation. Mark distributed information on creating a Family Care District. He invited everyone to the forums that will take place on Thursday, August 27 at the Neenah Human Services Building at 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 19 at the Coughlin Center at 6:00 p.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Program – J.C.L. Mediation Services – Judith Levin

Judith said the main focus of her service is on the needs and issues that arise surrounding the care of seniors. She said elder care mediation is becoming a more useful, cooperative process which is less adversarial than going to court when issues arise. Some of the things that are mediated are caregiver responsibilities; residential decisions; safety & health concerns; and assisted living conflicts. She will discuss with seniors their end-of-life decisions regarding wills & estates. Her role is to remain neutral and listen to the issues as she facilitates communication and resolution between family members or other parties. Mediation is a voluntary decision where discussions are confidential and everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Judith said she follows an intake process where she learns what the capacity levels are of the seniors and what their needs might be in having a voice to make sure their wishes are heard and understood clearly. She makes sure that everyone involved is supported and has sufficient back-up or referrals to make sure a conflict or issue turns into a workable agreement between everyone. Since her job is to help facilitate communication, if issues arise that she isn't comfortable handling she will recommend that the parties see a professional who can better assist them in their conflict. Judith gave a case example. She said it is rewarding to her at the end of mediation when the participants have positive feelings and are ready to move forward. Her responsibilities are to remain neutral; to make sure the expressed wishes of the senior are met to the greatest degree possible; to be sure there is substituted judgment when needed; and that the best-interest issues are resolved.

B. Comments – Visitors and Guests

There were no comments

C. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Commission on Aging will be held Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Oshkosh Human Services Building, located at 220 Washington Avenue.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary—Human Services Department