

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2009

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sylvia Banville

OTHERS PRESENT: Sylvia Bull, Menasha Senior Center; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Seniors Center; Joan Jaworski, Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Human Services Department

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 (8-0).

C. Approval of minutes of the June 24, 2009 meeting

With no additions or corrections, Patty Maehl moved for approval of the minutes; seconded by Joyce Klundt and carried unanimously (8-0).

II. REPORTS:

A. City Committees

Dr. Jean Caudle – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Jean deferred to Mark Ziemer for a report. Mark said that about 25 seniors participated in the 4th of July parade in Oshkosh. He said over 100 seniors participated in the summer senior games. The Oshkosh Seniors Center will continue to offer computer classes. A one-day triathlon is being planned for seniors. The Fall Family Fun Fest will take place on Sunday, September 13, which is also Grandparents Day.

Ann Jungwirth – Oshkosh Committee on Aging:

There was no meeting of the Committee on Aging last month.

Sylvia Bull – Menasha Senior Center:

Sylvia said the Center will host a Brat Fry this Thursday and Friday. There will be massage therapy available at the Center in August. The Fox Cities Senior Games will take place in Pierce Park in August.

Patty Maehl – Neenah Committee on Aging:

Patty said there was no meeting of the Neenah Committee on Aging this past month.

Moosey Goljenboom – Pickett Community Center:

Moosey was excused from today's meeting.

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

Deb was excused from today's meeting.

C. Nutrition Advisory Council – Theresa Stern

Terri was excused from today's meeting.

D. County Board – Don Griesbach

Don reported that budget requests have been submitted to the County Executive for review with the Finance Director, along with each department head and committee chairperson. He said the state is shorting the counties 5.8% in shared revenue this year. This will be \$178,000 for Winnebago County. He said Winnebago County was awarded about \$400,000 for energy efficiency efforts. The county will be spending \$35,000 for a study of the Oshkosh B'Gosh building.

E. Human Services Board – Don Griesbach/Donna Lohry

Donna said the County Board will be asked to approve a resolution to start an Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). She said Human Services has initiated a streamlined approach to handling crisis calls. The goal is to decrease out-of-home placements or shorten institutionalization for consumers.

F. Benefit Specialist – Joan Jaworski

Joan shared information about a program for a free furnace checkup that will be available for the low-income elderly in northern Winnebago County. The deadline to enroll in this program is August 31. Contact Joan for more information. Joan said there are about 25,000 seniors in Winnebago County who are eligible for Medicare Part D. Of those, about 1,200 could be eligible for extra help in paying their premium or lowering their co-pays. Joan and Candace will be doing some outreach to inform those individuals about these extra available benefits. A Senior Savvy Show will air in August featuring Candace who will present information on the upcoming Senior Resource Fair.

G. Supervisor – Mark Weisensel

Mark said he worked with the Board of "Making the Ride Happen" in preparing a New Freedom grant application to the state Department of Transportation for a mobility manager position to coordinate transportation in Winnebago, Calumet, and Outagamie counties.

Mark said we will be receiving federal stimulus money for our Nutrition Program through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. The money must be used directly to pay for home-delivered and congregate meals. Mark said he met with the new director of the Omro Community Center, Kim Biederman. She plans to report at all future meetings of the Commission on Aging.

Mark said the Elderly & Disabled Transportation National Conference he attended in Washington, D.C. went very well and he learned a lot.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Program – Long’s Senior Transitions – Jean Long, Owner

Jean said she is a certified relocation and transition specialist. She is part of a fourth generation of professional movers with over 45 years of experience. She started her business, Long’s Senior Transitions, two years ago. She explained that she helps seniors downsize and transition into a new living environment, such as a condo, apartment, assisted living facility, or even to another state. She helps them choose the location of their new residence and then helps them redefine the word “necessity,” so they can get rid of the things they no longer need. Jean gave suggestions about things that most seniors will no longer need. She said there are a lot of challenges for seniors with this process—they have a fear of the unknown, they are overwhelmed by the workload, they have comfort with the status quo, they fear they are losing memories, and they want to make their kids happy.

Jean pointed out the positives of eliminating things a person no longer needs—a sense of freedom; elimination of clutter and stress; surrounding yourself with things that you like and find useful; less time is needed to take care of your house; and giving an item away as a gift makes it more special. Jean said she tells her customers to look at their resources when selling their house—financial, physical, or emotional. She tells them to see what help is available to them when they move—relatives or friends and professional help. Jean said she helps seniors create a floor plan for their new home; helps select which items should be moved; and recommends they take items of comfort. She helps them move into their new place and helps clean out the old house and get it ready for resale. She gives suggestions for what to do with unwanted items. Jean’s advice to the children is to be understanding and kind to their parents; for example, failing eyesight and declining health could result in poor housekeeping. They should give their parents permission to get rid of things or ask for items back that they had given them. Children should take whatever items the parents offer to them. Her advice for parents is to let the children know what items are available to them.

B. Comments – Visitors and Guests

There were no comments

C. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Commission on Aging will be held Wednesday, August 26, 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 Donna Lohry and carried at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy De Grace, Secretary—Human Services Department