

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2009

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Don Griesbach

OTHERS PRESENT: Sylvia Bull, Menasha Seniors Center; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Services; Jason Hubbard, student intern; Kim Biedermann, Omro Community Center; Carol Rausch, Jasper Pickett Community Center; Terri Stern, Advocap Nutrition Program; Carol Frahm, Lutheran Social Services; Gregg Underheim, Senior Citizen Liaison; Candace Corbett, Joan Jaworski, Mark Weisensel, Mary Krueger 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**

Mark Weisensel said that Don Griesbach is excused from today's meeting. Mark moved the program for today's meeting to number I-D. Patty Maehl moved for adoption of the revised agenda; seconded by Joyce Klundt and carried.

**C. Approval of minutes of the September 23, 2009 meeting**

With no additions or corrections, Donna Lohry moved for approval; seconded by Joyce Klundt and carried (8-0).

**D. Program: Federal Aging Issues**

Gregg Underheim, a senior citizen liaison and field representative for Congressman Petri's office, said that his responsibilities include giving presentations on Medicare and Social Security to senior citizens. Gregg said the original Social Security law, which was passed in 1935, established levels of taxation and benefits. At that time it taxed up to \$3,000 of income at a rate of 1%. Today, the tax rate for Social Security is 6.2%; for Medicare Hospital coverage it is 1.45%. Currently, railroad workers are the only group of workers covered under a separate federal pension program. The money that the federal government takes from Social Security to pay individuals is replaced with a bond that earns interest paid in seven years. The Social Security system experienced a deficit of \$100 million for the first time in 1957. Over the course of the years there were some surpluses, but deficits increased simultaneously with the payments and collections. The federal government responded by increasing the Social Security tax and delaying the time that individuals were eligible for the full benefit. Life expectancy has increased over time, and therefore the obligations of the Social Security program has increased. The projected deficit for the year 2016 is \$18.9 billion.

Gregg said the federal government spends \$500 billion for Medicare on a yearly basis. He said one of the problems is that medical inflation is increasing at a rapid rate. Contributing factors for higher medical costs are: increased life expectancy; inferior lifestyle; and better technology to improve quality of care.

Mark Weisensel thanked Gregg Underheim for his presentation today.

## **II. REPORTS:**

### **A. City Committees**

#### Dr. Jean Caudle – Oshkosh Seniors Center:

Jean referred to the Senior Doings booklet for November. She said there will be a Women's Wellness Retreat on Sunday, November 8. Veterans Day will be celebrated at the Oshkosh Seniors Center on November 11. It will include a free breakfast and patriotic music selections. Registration is due November 9.

#### Ann Jungwirth – Oshkosh Committee on Aging:

Ann reported that she attended the Committee on Aging meeting, and there was a guest speaker from the United Way who spoke about the 2-1-1 information and referral system.

#### Sylvia Bull – Menasha Senior Center:

Sylvia said they had wellness screenings and a flu clinic in October. A massage therapist is scheduled to be at the Center in November. A Thanksgiving Banquet is being planned in collaboration with the Neenah/Menasha YMCA for November 17 at Germania Hall. Veterans will be honored, lunch will be served, and the Y-Nots will perform.

#### Patty Maehl – Neenah Committee on Aging:

Patty said she has been reappointed to be a member of the Neenah Committee on Aging. The most recent meeting had a question/answer period for the City Council. She also attended the Housing Authority meeting.

#### Kim Biedermann – Omro Area Community Center

Kim said there were about 65 people in attendance at their annual meeting. They held a flu clinic and are waiting to see if more of the vaccine will be available. There will be an Energy Assistance workshop in November. They've started healthy Bingo and regular Bingo. Texan Hold 'Em is another activity that has started up again. Card parties and movies have been well attended.

Carol Rausch – Pickett Community Center

Carol said they hired a new director, Susan Schleis, who will be starting on November 2. They will hold a flu clinic on November 5. They've been doing well at the brat fries that they have hosted at Pick N Save in Ripon. Carol invited everyone to attend the Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be held on November 19. Scrapbooking continues to be offered as an all day event at the Center.

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

Deb is excused from today's meeting.

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

Terri distributed an informational sheet regarding the flu vaccine. Terri reported that she recently attended a Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Programs Conference where she gave a short presentation on the "Prepare Now" packets that are distributed through Advocap. They discussed emergency preparedness, cost containment, budget cuts, and other efficiencies. Terri said her staff recently attended meal site management training, which proved to be an excellent presentation. Terri shared her monthly report. She said they project serving 130,000 meals through the end of this year. The average donation has stayed consistent at an average of \$2.30 per meal, which is about .11 cents lower than last year. She said she anticipates the program will break even this year, but next year she will look at asking for an increase in contributions. She said the money goes directly back into the program.

**D. County Board – Don Griesbach**

Don was excused from today's meeting.

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

Donna said the County Board approved the 2010 Budget as presented by County Executive Mark Harris.

**F. Benefit Specialist – Candace Corbett**

Candace said Medicare Advantage; Part D; and prescription drug plan open enrollment starts November 15. She said she was the keynote speaker at the Senior Resource Fair where she gave updates on Medicare and benefit eligibility for various programs, such as Food Share, Medicare Savings programs, Energy Assistance, and Senior Care. Candace said Badger Care Plus has instituted a waiting list. The program is a public option for health care for individuals aged 19 to 64 that don't have dependents. Candace said Medicare will cover the seasonal and H1N1 flu shots. She said that she and Joan Jaworski were available at the last flu clinic at the Oshkosh Seniors Center to assist seniors with the process of filing for Medicare Advantage reimbursement.

Candace said they are receiving calls with questions regarding the open enrollment for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D which runs until December 31. There will be an extended open enrollment for Medicare Advantage until March 31. There will be changes in 2010 for Part D. There will be 48 stand-alone plans available, compared to 53 in 2009. The average premium will range from \$60.80 to \$99.80. A Medicare Advantage premium will average about \$39 a month. Some individuals will have access to a plan with a zero premium. The average for a prescription drug plan will be about \$30 a month. Some individuals qualify for a low-income subsidy and will not have a premium or a deductible. Candace said most Medicare beneficiaries will not see a monthly increase in 2010 for their Medicare Part B premiums if their Social Security cost of living hasn't increased. There will be a small percentage of individuals that will not be protected from this—27% of new enrollees to Medicare; those that will have income-related Part B premiums; and those that have Medicaid pay for their Part B premium. The premium is increasing from \$96.40 per month to \$110.50 for 2010. Candace said she and Joan will continue to do presentations regarding the public entitlement program.

**G. Supervisor – Mark Weisensel**

Mark distributed information regarding the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) that will start on February 1, 2010 in Winnebago County. He relayed the general recommendation for the mission, the goal and the responsibilities of the committee members. The committee will be comprised of 11-12 citizens in accordance with the Department of Health Services Division of Long Term Care ADRC contract and Commission on Aging composition requirements. Mark said a nomination form is being drafted for individuals that are interested in being a member of the ADRC Committee. This committee will replace the Long Term Support Advisory Committee and the Commission on Aging. Mark said the new ADRC will be comprised of eight (8) information & assistance workers; four (4) adult protective service workers; two (2) elderly benefit specialists; and two (2) disability benefit specialists.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Comments – Visitors and Guests**

There were no comments.

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

**C. With no further business, Roger Jaeger moved for adjournment; seconded by Joyce Klundt and carried at approximately 3:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy De Grace, Secretary  
Human Services Department