

Advisory Council

October 16, 2008

Area 1 Agency on Aging, (208) 667-3179

ATTENDEES

ICOA:

John Albee

Council Members:

Jack Bowlin - Benewah
Rose Spencer – Benewah
Becky Correll—Bonner
Esther Gilchrist - Bonner
Tari Yourzek – Boundary
Joanna Adams - Kootenai
Linda Beecher—Kootenai
Marie Fish - Kootenai
Marla Lewis—Kootenai
Denny Seymour—Kootenai
Carey Spears – Kootenai
Dorothy Zakrajsek – Kootenai
Julie Robbins – Shoshone

Service Providers:

Erma Williams - Kootenai
Helen Stephens- Shoshone

Staff:

Marilyn Anders
Barbara Bisaro
Pearl Bouchard
Fran Hunsaker
Mary Jacobsen
Bill Langer
Bobbie Sailor
Ann Walker
Kaye Wilson

Guests

Judy Gray
Terry Stettler
John Krause

The Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 9:34 by the council vice president, Rose Spencer. After introductions all around, Carey Spears, council secretary, presented the minutes of the April, 08 Advisory Council meeting for review. Zak motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Julie Robbins seconded. All favored and motion carried.

Presidents Report Tari Yourzek

Tari welcomed all present, acknowledging their commitment to making senior programs in North Idaho work. She announced that soon Pearl, Carey and Rose would be going to Boise to present the needs of seniors in North Idaho.

Tari also spoke of national financial concerns. She suggested that one way to address these concerns is to strengthen our relationships with family, neighbors, and throughout our communities. We can do this by:

- Working to repair relationships that have grown distant.
- Being prepared to assist our neighbor with the things we are able.
- Taking care of ourselves so we will be strong enough to assist others and not draw on the strengths of others more than absolutely necessary.
- Make a special close connection with someone in your neighborhood.

If we work to strengthen our communities, beginning in our own homes and neighborhoods, we will be better prepared to withstand whatever challenges lay ahead.

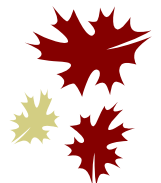
Director's Report Pearl Bouchard

Area Plan Update

Pearl reviewed the identified “needs” handout of seniors in North Idaho. She identified “great” needs as services not currently available or with a long waiting list. “Moderate” needs included a shorter waiting list or insufficient funds to expand services to areas in need, ex: Hayden congregate meals.

Judy Gray reported that the Older Worker program (#14) has funds available so should fall under “Currently Meets Needs”. However, Joanna Adams, Panhandle Health District stated #19) was found to be “Insufficient to Meet Current Needs” as not enough volunteers are available to meet the demand for health promotion programming. These adjustments were reflected on the report.

The Projected Outputs form was presented. Its job is to reflect future needs. The Disaster Plan was also presented. This information is updated each fall and distributed to all county disaster offices. No adjustments were made.



Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Bobbie Sailor

The 2009 budget must be submitted with the Area Plan to ICOA in October. This projected budget reflects 2008 budget less carryover of \$37,642, as well as a mandatory 1% state funds holdback. Bobbie walked through the budget highlighting program adjustments due to the carryover and state funds holdback.

The conclusion of the Alzheimer Demonstration Grant (06/09), and the grant funding the Volunteer Ombudsman Program (12/08) were reviewed, as well as the completion of the Aging Connection contract (12/08). The grants are not expected to be refunded.

Tari asked for a motion to accept the budget as submitted with the recommendations. JoAnna Adams so motioned and Marie Fish seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Meal Sites Pearl Bouchard

In reflecting on the approach by meal sites (Blanchard and Hayden) for funding, Pearl was reminded of her battle with ICOA for our fair share of funding, as defined by the Federal funding formula, to be sent to our area. She argued that the Older Americans Act states "Everybody has an equal right to the services". Her plea was refused because the funds were being used by other areas and they didn't want to take them away.

In our area Pearl feels we have a similar situation. To be consistent we need to look at ways to redistribute funds to accommodate everyone. She reviewed some of the strict guidelines new sites must meet to show their commitment. She asked for recommendations to create equity for these sites.

Carey Spears proposed "stair stepped" funding be initiated. The process would provide 25% funding the first year, 50% in the second year and 100% starting in the third year for eligible sites. This would have less impact on meal sites currently operating.

After discussion Carey presented a motion for a vote: When senior centers meet eligibility to receive funding, they will be stair stepped to full funding over a three year period; approximately 25% the first year, 50% the second, and 100% in the third year depending on funds availability. In addition, all current sites will be reassessed yearly to verify "equal right to the services" as set by the Older Americans Act.

Zak seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

County Council Reports (see page 4 - Needs by County)

Rose Spencer reported that Fernwood has purchased lots adjacent to their senior center. This will allow for expansion when they are ready. Also, 100 flu vaccinations have been made available to seniors 60-64 with no insurance coverage in Benewah County.

Esther Gilchrist reported that seniors in Bonner county cannot loose their homes due to taxes. This year's tax bill will include an explanation of requirements and how to apply for emergency assistance.

She also reported that the DayBreak Center is making an impact in Sandpoint. The response has been so overwhelming that they are already looking for a larger location. Ribbon cutting is Friday, October 17th.

According to Marilyn Anders the commissioners in Benewah County will be sent news items, and copies of Advisory Council meeting minutes.

After reviewing the needs that were found in each individual county (page 4), Pearl wrapped up discussion by identifying common threads across the counties, including the concern for waiting lists due to lack of funding, transportation in rural areas, home repairs, working with employers, and outreach and education.

Presentations:

ICOA UpdateJohn Albee

John touched on a number of important topics including:

- County Commissioners involvement with the Advisory Council has brought focus to senior issues.
- The need for new volunteers and county council members.
- The importance of flu shots for seniors. Medicare can help most.
- State funding is up in the air. A 1% holdback was imposed by the Governor and applied across the board. It could grow to as much as 3%. It's time for the ICOA director to start requests for funding increases.
- Governor will require a "0" budgeting approach. ICOA applied for a 1 year delay. It was approved.
- Stimulus filing cutoff - 10/15. North Idaho and Spokane had the highest rate of non-filing persons. May be able to file up to 4/15/09.

John's commission membership expires July 1st, 2009.

Transportation John Krause

The Idaho Mobility and Access Pathway (IMAP) is developing a state mobility plan to meet state code requirements, access additional funds unattainable until a plan is in place, and to address unmet statewide needs. They are currently developing community plans for 6 district areas divided into 17 segments called Local Mobility Management Networks (LMMN).

The process to fund local programs involves stakeholders (local network of people) identifying and prioritizing local needs. These needs are passed to district and then state levels where they try to match funding. Needs are funded starting with priority one down until funds run out. Any items left are carried over to the next year.

Two current projects include organizing networking, and collecting surveys from users and service providers. To learn more about IMAP you can participate in the online Webinar at 1pm (PT) every day by going to: <http://www.webmeeting.att.com>, **Meeting number: 8882323870**, **Code number: 995911**, enter your name and e-mail address. To participate in the conference call portion, call: (888)232-3870, and enter the **Participation code: 995911**.

To participate in the online survey go to: <http://www.lanresourcesllc.com/imap.html>.

For the Good of the Order

Joanna Adams spoke about Fit & Fall Proof, and Living Well (managing chronic disease). Currently three of our five counties are participating. Volunteers are needed to teach.

Mary Jacobsen introduced new Area Agency on Aging social workers, Ann Walker, Adult Protection investigator, and Barbara Bisaro, case manager.

Jack Bowlin, who has served two terms with the Advisory Council, was recognized for his dedication to the council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Approved By: Carey Spears (Via E-mail). *Respectively submitted by Fran Hunsaker*

Next Meeting: April, 2009

NEEDS BY COUNTY

Value Statements	BENNEWAH	BONNER	BOUNDARY	KOOTENAI	SHOSHONE
#1 Elderly persons should have the option to remain in their own homes for as long as they choose, to the extent possible.	Transportation (shopping, medical, St. Maries to Plummer shuttle) Home repair (roofing, access ramps, knowledge of resources)	Inability to remain in home due to Taxes, Maintenance, rising cost of living; groceries, heat/utilities, medical and insurance. Limited in-home services - Unable to obtain services needed because of waiting lists or not available	Keep seniors mobile and healthy with preventative measures. <i>Ex: Find way for Fit n Fall to work with U of I's Extension Program.</i> Improve senior nutrition through community efforts. <i>Ex: community gardens, and donations of garden produce</i>	Home repairs and chores are important and needed Information and education about available resources in the community is important	Transportation: additional funding may be needed. Outreach to identify at-risk seniors Home Care – lack of trained staff and more services needed
#2 Older persons are a valuable human resource; they can continue to contribute to their communities through volunteer work or, if they so choose, by remaining in the work force.	Fewer senior volunteers due to income needs Use resource centers to identify needs of seniors and volunteers	Develop "pool of opportunities" – Host information, Volunteer opportunities, Jobs for seniors, Business contributions – monetary or employee time, Need the income - Involve school programs, Intergenerational networking	Community and business support of volunteer efforts. Accessibility of volunteer sites to account for varying levels of mobility and impairments of volunteers.	Individualize the experience to fit the person who wants to work or volunteer Transportation to and from the job site may be problematic	Volunteer Recognition Outreach to organizations (Hospice, schools) using pamphlets
#3 Knowledge of programs and services is the key to empowering Idaho's seniors and their families.	Many elderly are isolated by choice. Build awareness in the community about senior needs	Presentations to Human Resource Depts. of major employers in the community Networking with churches, Utilize community centers/senior centers	Current information available to seniors in a variety of formats. Information made available to employers.	Agency partnerships may be key to broadening the knowledge base Use creative ways to "advertise" (vs. the phone book)	Outreach Program information needs to be kept up-to-date
#4 Older persons should be accorded dignity and respect, with their safety and autonomy preserved.	Many facilities (asst living, skilled nursing) are understaffed Staff need to respect seniors and have more knowledge about older individuals	Public Awareness - Training of professionals (i.e. doctors) and paid/family caregivers Utilize national "senior" days to promote message in community - Take the message into the local neighborhood	Gatekeepers need referral options for problem solving so less situations fall through the cracks. Reduce isolation by finding ways to help seniors remain engaged socially and as a part of their communities.	Educate people so they understand the goal of intervention is to maintain independence and living in a home environment	Develop Caregiver Support Groups - Education and Training Outreach - pamphlets distributed by volunteers/staff
#5 The AAAs are partners with the Idaho Commission on Aging in providing leadership and advocacy to meet the needs of Idaho's seniors and vulnerable adults.	AAA waiting lists Lack of funding and staff to keep up	AAA waiting lists Lack of funding and staff to keep up	Continue to seek out vocal senior advocates in local communities.	Support families and the community Break down the barriers that interfere with providing services and maintaining independence	Expand existing programs to meet the needs - Emphasis on Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Continue to keep elected officials informed about needs of seniors