

Advisory Council

October 18, 2007

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

ATTENDEES

ICOA:

Kim Toryanski
Donna Denney
John Albee

Council Members:

Rose Spencer – Benewah
Denise Alexander - Bonner
Esther Gilchrist – Bonner
Paul Graves - Bonner
Irma Merrifield – Boundary
Tari Yourzek – Boundary
Mary DeTienne – Kootenai
Marie Fish - Kootenai
Jud Leifheit – Kootenai
Carey Spears – Kootenai
Dorothy Zakrajsek – Kootenai
Eva Battista – Shoshone
Julie Robbins – Shoshone
Peggy White – Shoshone

Service Providers:

Lois Porter - Shoshone
JoAnn Groves - Shoshone

Staff:

Tamina Boonisar
Pearl Bouchard
Janet Burton
Cheryl Costigan
Bill DePew
Tim Egbert
Fran Hunsaker
Mary Jacobsen
Bill Langer
Doug Palmer
Carrie Reese
Bobbie Sailor
Kaye Wilson
Jan Young

Guests

Phyllis Albee
Barbara Lund
Becki Propst

The Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 1:35 by the council president, Tari Yourzek.

After introductions all around, Tari gave a special introduction and welcome to Kim Toryanski, the new Administrator of the Idaho Commission on Aging.

Kim's professional background includes a private law practice in Boise for 9 years advising individuals, businesses, and governmental entities. She has many years of litigation experience in Idaho State Court as well as Federal Courts throughout the nation. Her major focus in her private practice was pursuit of worker's pensions and employment benefits, as well as general business and criminal justice. She has spent nearly half of her 22 years vigorously protecting the rights of vulnerable people in the Boise community. In addition to her private practice, Kim has been devoted to assisting Idaho citizens through volunteer efforts such as Idaho Legal Aid, as well as the Idaho Law Foundation, and the US Veteran's Administration.



Kim spoke about herself personally. She and her husband have three children. She is the daughter of a federal prosecutor, who throughout his career, made her aware of fraud against all kinds of segments of the community and what became apparent to her was how often certain segments of our society are victimized. Oftentimes in fraud cases it is seniors.

Kim stated she had the opportunity to move to Washington DC and work on Capitol Hill where she worked for four years on a Senate sub-committee investigating waste and fraud abuse in government. She then moved to the Justice Department in the Criminal Division, part of a team investigating fraud, and again she was able to see how often seniors are targeted.

ICOA presents a great opportunity to concentrate on senior issues. She has the Governor's ear. He chose her because of her background as an advocate, ability to work with people, get information across to the people who need to have it, and make a difference.



County Council Reports

Benewah Rose Spencer

- * Urban transportation has improved with the efforts of CityLink and Valley Vista Care Services. However, remote east county is still without transportation.
- * As of April the new congregate meal provider for the senior centers in Worley, Plummer, Tensed and Fernwood will be Community Bible Church. Service has already increased by 400 meals. The meal provider is seeking funds for new stainless table (Worley) and a new air conditioner unit (Plummer).
- * The St. Maries meal site building has been sold. Without a new location, they may be forced to close.

Bonner Esther Gilchrist

- * Esther announced plans to open an adult day center in Sandpoint in April/May of 2008. They will be acquiring the needed equipment as possible. The program will start out as a two-day pilot program, for up to six hours and expand as resources grow.
- * Paul Graves would like to start a Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament benefitting the Area Agency on Aging. It would and give city officials from the five counties the opportunity to show support for their senior population.

Boundary Irma Merrifield

- * "Friends of the Restorium" has been organized to assist with needed facility improvements, while also supporting the hospital auxiliary. Recently they helped purchase a wheelchair for patients weighing up to 700 lbs.
- * Currently 4% of all grandparents in Boundary County are raising grandchildren.

Kootenai..... Carey Spears

- * Growing senior population is causing shortage of primary care providers. Dirne Clinic has expanded to include the Sage Center and Memory Clinic, which performs aging and geriatric evaluations.
- * The number of assisted living facilities has grown but the number of skilled nurses supporting facilities hasn't. The waiting list for low-income senior housing has now grown to 3 years and the two facilities that take Medicaid patients are almost always full.
- * CityLink, serving Kootenai County, has proven to be a great addition to the overburdened KATS transportation program. The Bayview connection between City Links and KATS is still being worked on. Will follow-up with Helen Stephens at KATS to verify.
- * The community-based Elderhelp Program has stepped forward to help seniors in the community with minor home repairs, and safety modifications. Real Life Ministries has also come forward to help provide money to assist some seniors with bills.
- * Frank Henderson reported that through subsidy programs identifiable programs can request available funds from the Kootenai county budget. Frank has submitted a request to Kootenai County to increase their support of senior centers. He encouraged those from other counties to check on their county budget.

Shoshone.....Lois Porter

- * Communities in the Silver Valley are discussing the necessity for additional infrastructure to support the rapidly expanding population. The sudden flood of new residents is causing inflation which is becoming a hardship for the senior population.
- * Lois was happy to inform the council of Silver Valley Senior Center's success in acquiring two new vans. Generous donations were received not only for the vans, but also for new kitchen counters and a coffee machine.

Presidents Report.....Tari Yourzek

- * Carey Spears, council secretary, presented the minutes of the April, 07 Advisory Council meeting for review. Zak motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Esther Gilchrist seconded. All favored and motion carried.
- * Idaho’s Ombudsman program has been ranked #1 in facility visits in the nation. Idaho has only 7 Ombudsman to cover 280 assisted living facilities and 79 skilled nursing facilities quarterly. This is in addition to the requested visits from residents and family members. They have done an outstanding job with limited resources.
- * The 55 and over workforce is growing twice as fast as the rest of the workforce.
- * Flu season is here again. Tari suggests that everyone get their flu shot. She stated that there is no shortage of vaccine as there have been in previous years.

Director’s Report: Pearl Bouchard

Area Plan (Enclosure)

Each year the Area Plan is reviewed. Efforts from the creation of our current Area Plan have resulted in the establishment of the Ombudsman Volunteer program. Community awareness of the Ombudsman Program will be our next focus.

Service Needs (Enclosure)

Cost of doing business is going up. However the same services are being provided with the same funding dollars. Unfortunately service needs are projected to increase.

There is little control over resources used by our mandatory response program, Adult Protection.

Gaps in service are determined by waiting lists. Waiting lists help identify the best application as new funds become available.

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget (Enclosure)Bobbie Sailor

The 2007 budget includes 2006 federal carryover of \$23,955. The proposed budget for 2008 will be submitted next week. The 2008 budget shows no carryover because we don’t know at this time if there will be any.

Bobbie handed out and reviewed a budget comparison between 2007 and 2008. Highlights included an I&R budget reduction with Health and Welfare’s Aging Connections contract completion date of 9/30/08. A Transportation funds decrease reflecting actual usage; Caregiver counseling reimbursed thru other dollars (Medicare); reduction in Ombudsman Program due to completion of local grant (Inland Northwest Community Foundation) as of 05/31/08; and the Volunteer Court Visitor dollars reflecting the balance of funds available.

Bobbie made some recommended if additional funding should become available.

- * increase in the cost of living raise offered to AAA staff from 3% to 6% to cover no raise the previous year,
- * creating a part-time paid position, in order to keep the volunteer ombudsman program moving forward,
- * and assistance to the Blanchard meal site in reopening.

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

Evaluation of County Councils

County councils were reviewed to ascertain if certain criteria were being met in order for the effort to be considered beneficial. They include:

- | | <u>Criteria Met?</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. More people are participating? | Yes |
| 2. More contact with elected officials? | Unknown |
| 3. Services to seniors and caregivers has changed (improved) | Yes |
| - <i>Improvements: Transportation, Board of Guardians, Sage Clinic</i> | |
| 4. Greater presence in local community | Unknown |
| - <i>Suggested improvements: Press releases, talking points/published resource aids</i> | |

It was decided that improvements warranted the continuation of county council format.

For the Good of the Order

- * The AAA is considering a possible move to CD'A Homes as a solution to very cramped conditions.
- * Meeting at Lake City Senior Center on 10/24 at 7pm of the Panhandle Coalition.
- * Mary DeTienne announced a new program designed to help with senior's health, dealing with isolation, fatigue, medication, communication, and nutrition as well as other related areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

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

Next Meeting: October, 2008