

Advisory Council *on Aging*

October 13, 2010

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

ATTENDEES

ICOA:

Jackie McAvoy

Council Members:

Jonnie Bradley – Bonner
Carey Spears—Bonner
Larry Verhei—Bonner
Gini Woodward—Boundary
Tari Yourzek—Boundary
Joanna Adams - Kootenai
John Albee– Kootenai
Pete Ellers—Kootenai
Heather Gray—Kootenai
Marilyn MacGregor—Kootenai
Carrie McCrite - Kootenai
Dennie Seymour—Kootenai
Zak Zakrajsek—Kootenai
Julie Robbins— Shoshone
Peggy White—Shoshone

Service Providers:

Erma Williams - Kootenai

Staff:

Sue Amaral
Marilyn Anders
Pearl Bouchard
Fran Hunsaker
Mary Jacobsen
Melinda Kennedy
Bill Langer
Bobbie Sailor
Jan Young

** new council members*

The Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 9:35 by the council president, Tari Yourzek.

President's Report **Tari Yourzek**

Tari reported that health care reform measures have motivated local health-care providers to get a head start on future requirements. Four of the five hospitals in North Idaho have partnered to create an electronic medical records database that will allow access to patient information as one record. This system will save time because access to information is in real time, while money also will be saved, for example, by eliminating unnecessary repeat testing.

Bedside Medication verification matching patient information to medical information at the bedside will provide better, safer care for patients.

Not currently connecting to Spokane's hospitals: Sacred Heart and Deconess, would have to upgrade their current system to be able to access the northern Idaho program.

Approval of Minutes, April 14th, 2010 **Carey Spears**

Carey asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Advisory Council meeting as submitted. Carrie McCrite so motioned; Julie Robbins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Director's Report **Pearl Bouchard**

Friendship Corps: Placement on a waiting list for senior services can last a year or longer. While some seniors have been seen by a case manager, others have not. Many have high priority needs, but there are few resources to meet those needs. Pearl introduced a new program designed to target the immediate needs of seniors still awaiting services.

Jane Thomas has accepted a VISTA position to act as the Volunteer Coordinator for this new program. She will ideally supervise 25 volunteers working from five different workstations, including Lake City Senior Center, SHIBA, and the Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho Resource Center.

These volunteers will be specially trained to provide valuable information regarding Medicare, assistance with instruction after hospital discharge and connection to other important community resources. This would help to achieve a program goal to cut down on hospital readmits.

Pearl is optimistic that the program will be funded through a grant with the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. But failing that, the program will still move forward but on a smaller scale.

Fundraising: In an effort to address the growing number of seniors on waiting lists, the agency has been actively raising funds by means of mail campaigns. Since 2004 \$17,000 has been collected.

To make donations to the agency even easier, the agency has added the option to donate on their website. Donors will make a PayPal like payment and receive a printable receipt. One drawback is the 3% program charge. However, donors can opt to increase their donation by 3% to cover this charge.

Finally, a planned giving committee has been investigating the feasibility of a designated endowment fund. With input from Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF), they are seeking 10 founding members donating \$1,000 each to start the fund. They are also seeking tag lines and a celebrity attachment to increase exposure and recognition. Our thanks to the committee, Dennie Seymour, Larry Verhei, Jonnie Bradley, Zak Zakrejsek, and John Albee for their efforts.

MOTION► Larry Verhei made a motion for a “vote of confidence” from the Advisory Council on Aging to the NIC Board of Trustees to create an endowment fund for northern Idaho seniors at the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. Voting was unanimously in favor of the vote of confidence; the motion carried.

Presentation: Straight Talk for Seniors Pearl Bouchard

Pearl shared a presentation by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) entitled *Straight Talk for Seniors: Will Health Care Reform Change your Health Care?* in answer to concerns expressed by seniors about health care reform. The entire presentation can be found on the web at www.NCOA.org/StraightTalk.

County Council Updates

Benewah **Marilyn Anders**

Marilyn announced that a new resource guide for Benewah and Shoshone County would be out soon.

Bonner **Carey Spears**

Carey Spears announced that the DayBreak Center has moved to its permanent location—adjacent to the Sandpoint Senior Center. There is an open house scheduled October 24th from 12—3pm.

Jonnie Bradley reported that Sandpoint’s Elderhelp Program has been able to provide some service to seniors in the area; however, the shortage of volunteers has limited those they can serve. As such, they have limited their advertising in the community.

Boundary **Mary Jacobsen**

Topics addressed at the Boundary County Council meeting included low adult protection referrals, the closing of the H&W office, and the appointment of Gini Woodward as chair of the revamped Board of Guardians.

Kootenai..... **Carrie McCrite/John Albee**

Carrie reported about the meeting with the commissioners regarding the Circuit Breaker program that benefits seniors by providing a reduction on their utility bill; and George Eveon, who goes out and assist those who are homebound to access this program.

John reported the county council’s request that Kootenai commissioners support senior centers with funding. Last year the senior centers received \$8,000 from county funds. The commissioners want to know that the centers are receiving community support. Since they are still working on their budget they would not commit at this time.

Shoshone.....Peggy White

Peggy announced that they have received the new resource guide for Benewah and Shoshone Counties.

Area Plan Report and Update Pearl Bouchard

Pearl reported agency progress in goals outlined in the Area Plan. Goal 1 includes *helping people make informed decisions*. This goal has been addressed by means of implementing ADRC developed strategies, partnerships with Medicaid/Medicare, and the Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho’s Medicare themed conference scheduled for 2011.

Goal 2 focuses on *home repairs and community based services*. Along with a home maintenance project that was started in Bonner County, county directories and NIC newsletter articles directed towards caregivers have been published.

Goal 3 involves *staying active and healthy*. Supports for this goal include the continuation of the RSVP recruitment of volunteers for Fit & Fall Proof and Panhandle Health Department’s Chronic Disease Self Management classes, the RSVP newsletter and the startup of the Friendship Corps.

Goal 4 includes *ensuring the rights of older people and preventing their abuse, neglect and exploitation*. The Adult Protection program has made 10 presentations to over 280 people in the last year. In addition the Elder Abuse multi disciplinary team is now distributing their own brochure. The Ombudsman department has made 16 presentations to over 420 people, and recruited 8 additional volunteers to their program.

Goal 5 focuses on *maintaining effective and responsive oversight of Older Americans Act and Idaho Senior Services Act-funded programs*. Areas addressed include implementation of a quality review program for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and participation in a study by the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) by a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee. A report of the findings from the RSVP review has been shared with the RSVP Advisory Board and the OPE report is expected in January of 2011.

Additional updates to the Area Plan included changes to the organizational chart and Advisory Council profile, projected funding outputs, and updates to the disaster plan.

MOTION▶ A motion was made by Joanna Adams to accept the updates to the Area Plan as presented. John Albee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Idaho Commission on Aging Report..... Jackie McAvoy

Jackie reported attending the August, 2010 ICOA meetings in Boise. Several of the ICOA commissioner positions need to be filled, all in southern Idaho. Also discussed was elder justice, response to self neglect, adult protection for vulnerable adults, and guardianship and conservatorship.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Update **Bobbie Sailor**

Bobbie reported on 2011 funding. The comprehensive budget summary that Bobbie handed out showed Federal (Older American Act) dollars reflecting a base budget of \$946,745 as compared to the current 2010 OAA Budget of \$1,017,012 which includes a carryover of \$70,267 from the previous year.

The carryover was made up of 33% from internal OAA funded programs and 67% from contracted services. The OAA budget of \$946,745 was reached by reducing the overall contracted services by only 41% and the balance of 59% came from internal OAA funded programs.

Bobbie had a couple of additional items of note. The first had to do with current population trends in Idaho showing a shift of growth from northern Idaho to the Boise Area. This will result in a smaller award of funding to Area 1. The second item Bobbie wanted to report was that Congress had passed a continuing resolution; so we will continue to budget based on FFY2010 numbers.

For the Good of the Order

- Tari Yourzek wanted to remind everyone to vote on November 2nd. She encouraged individuals to take the time to educate themselves about the HJR4 Bill. For more information go to WhatisJR4.com.
- Joanna Adams reported that Panhandle Health Districts
- chronic disease management classes have been expanded. She encourages all who would like to participate to do so soon before the funding runs out. FYI the funding for this program runs from May to May.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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

Next Meeting: April 13th, 2011

Our thanks to Legends Park for hosting our meeting.