

**MINUTES  
HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Linda Olson, Delores Kruepke, Charlene Brady, Ralph Hensel, Doug Johnson, Kristen Hosking, Cheryl Gray

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Health and Aging Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Charlene Brady.

**NOTICE OF POSTING**

Notice of Posting was given by Mrs. Brady.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 1, 2005 MINUTES**

Motion Ralph Hensel; second Delores Kruepke to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting. Motion Carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Ralph Hensel to go into Closed session in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; namely to conduct annual performance review of the Office on Aging Director.

**MOTION TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION**

Motion Ralph Hensel; second Delores Kruepke to return to Open Session. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**REPORT ON SENIOR DINING PROGRAM**

The Hartford Hospital is reevaluating their home delivered meal program. Their program provides special diets. They are considering partnering with the Washington County Senior Dining program. The Visiting Nurse Association also provides meals and OOA may partner with them in Hartford. Linda will be meeting with them next week. The hospital only delivers meals within Hartford city limits.

Kristen Hosking, the OOA Dietitian, reported that the Slinger meal site move went well. The site moved from Scenic View Apartments to St. Luke Church in Slinger on January 9, 2006.

Linda set up free transportation for Scenic View residents to go to the new meal site. Seven (7) participants came from Scenic View the first week and continue to come on a regular basis.

The meal count at Slinger remains steady and has not decreased. Some of the previous participants from Scenic View are now provided home delivered meals.

Some church members from St. Luke are now participating in the meal program. Some of the members have come back and brought guests.

A news release was sent into the newspapers and radios regarding the meal site move. The church pastor is very positive and puts information about the meal program in the church newsletter.

A Steps to Healthier Aging class will run there in the Spring. Another class may be offered at Jackson Town Hall as well.

The Germantown Banner Press newspaper contacted Kathy Beimborn and Kristen about writing an article about the meal program needing drivers. One of the participants agreed to be interviewed and have their picture taken. Also, some volunteer drivers will be interviewed.

Previous articles and ads in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel have been helpful in drawing volunteer drivers to the meal program. There are now 3 or 4 new drivers from Richfield. There are now enough drivers for the Germantown meal site to have 3 routes Monday – Friday. Substitute drivers are still needed.

In 2004 the Senior Dining meal program provided 44,552 home delivered meals. In 2005 the program provided 46,984 home delivered meals. The program increased by 2,000 meals. In 2003 the program was only providing 40,000 home delivered meals.

The Germantown meal program alone has grown immensely. In 2003, Germantown provided 6,571 home delivered meals. In 2005, they provided 8,749 home delivered meals. Germantown now has three routes reaching outlying areas they weren't able to reach before.

The Hartford meal site could still use drivers. The meal site manager has to deliver meals herself at this point. If the program partners with the hospital it would help with volunteers. They gave us names of previous hospital volunteer drivers who will be contacted to see if they would consider driving for the Senior Dining program.

Ralph Hensel suggested positive articles about volunteers in the newspapers, i.e. "Volunteer of the Week" with a picture. The West Bend meal site got more volunteers after Kathy Beimborn, OOA Aging Services Worker, did a radio ad with one of the drivers.

Kristen discussed the meal sites' participation in the national "Go Red for Women Day" which aides in women's heart disease awareness. The meal sites posted signs to encourage participants to wear red. Information about heart disease awareness will be handed out. Each meal site will have a drawing for those who wear red. The prize will be a free meal ticket to any meal site. The menu will be fully red and featuring lasagna.

#### **AGING PROGRAMS REPORT**

Linda discussed Medicare Part D and distributed hand outs regarding a new plan for Medicare assistance called Ever Care.

Linda presented a report of Medicare Part D activities since June, 2005. The report included how many presentations were done by OOA June – August, 2005 and August – November, 2005. The report also included one-on-one appointments done by OOA staff from November, 2005 to January, 2006, assistance from SeniorLaw Attorney Jennie Pinnow, and number of disabled clients assisted under age of 60 who had no other options for help. Common problems discovered regarding Medicare Part D were also discussed in the report.

Cheryl Gray, OOA Benefit Specialist reported on Medicare part D issues which included problems with transition medications and pharmacies choosing not to provide medications to clients. OOA has had to intervene with pharmacies to make sure some clients could get their medications in a timely manner.

Some clients have reported being on the phone 2-4 hours trying to get through. Dual eligible clients seem to be the most vulnerable.

Medicare eligible individuals will no longer receive their medications through the Patient Assistance program. The program provides medications for lower income individuals through the drug companies. Once they enroll in Medicare Part D or SeniorCare they can no longer get their medications through the Patient Assistance program.

Linda reported on Aging Services. The Better Than Ever series with Cedar Community will be contracted again this year. The programs will be presented at all meal sites and senior centers in Washington County. The program was presented to 282 seniors last year. The program offers information on different senior health issues which include fitness, Alzheimer's, low vision, falls, cardiac heart problems. They also want to target the new meal site in Slinger.

Jeff Jones from Hometown Publications will meet with Linda regarding senior news articles. Hometown Publications plans to put out a new publication called "Golden Age Gazette". It will be in magazine format printed on newsprint and steered towards senior citizens. He and Linda will meet to discuss how to reach a larger audience with OOA information.

Linda reported that OOA is working on final budget figures. OOA figures close to budget for 2005. OOA has been continuing to enter information into SAMS.

The next meeting of the Health and Aging Committee will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006 immediately following the Board of Health meeting for lunch at the Slinger Senior Dining meal site.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Charlene Brady to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

