

MINUTES

HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005

THOSE PRESENT: Linda Olson, Delores Kruepke, Charlene Brady, Ralph Hensel, Pat Fox-Schindler – Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County

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 FEBRUARY 3, 2005 MINUTES

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Ralph Hensel to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2005 meeting. Motion Carried.

APPEARANCE OF PAT FOX-SCHINDLER, INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Pat Fox-Schindler of Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County discussed the progress of the last year obtaining clients and volunteers.

Snow shoveling, yard care and raking were services offered in the fall. Others services included minor home repairs. Laundry and meal preparation services are offered to clients after minor surgery and needing temporary help.

Services are provided throughout Washington County. Currently, there are two clients served in Colgate, 28 in West Bend, eight in Hartford, three in Slinger, 12 in Germantown, two in Jackson, three in Richfield, and one in Hubertus. West Bend and Germantown are the two biggest areas served.

The number of volunteers serving the community are one from Colgate, 18 from Germantown, two from Hartford, four from Hubertus, one from Kewaskum, three from Ozaukee County, two from Richfield, three from Slinger, and 23 from West Bend.

More assistance is needed through volunteers in Slinger and Hartford. As of now, there are only five volunteers from that area.

This month Interfaith will be speaking at a church service in Hartford to recruit volunteers. Also, they will be speaking at the Hartford Senior Center in April to recruit volunteers.

There was a rise in the number of friendly visits over the winter months. Interfaith served people in their own homes, assisted living facilities, and in nursing homes. sometimes both spouses are served. One spouse will stay home and the other is provided

with transportation services. Interfaith is serving more women than men. However, they are serving quite a few single men, also.

Charlene asked for more information regarding the volunteers. Pat explained that background checks are done on each volunteer, as well as a check on their driving records. Volunteers ages 13 –17 are only allowed to do outside work and cannot enter a client's home without adult supervision. As of now, there are pairs of volunteers where it is a father/daughter and a mother/son. All other volunteers are 18 and older. A volunteer must be 18 years old to transport a client.

Pat explained that there has been some confusion about the name, Interfaith Caregivers. They are not affiliated with a certain religion. Rather, the program is living your faith through interaction. Interfaith serves many denominations.

The response to Interfaith in Washington County overall has been wonderful in Washington County. The sons and daughters of people who are being served are so grateful.

Pat stressed that volunteers do not do anything hands on medical. Also, they do not help clients out of wheelchair and clients must be able to get in and out of a car on their own. Interfaith needs a week notice to find a volunteer when contacted.

DISCUSSION OF BENEFIT SPECIALIST ALLOCATION FOR MEDICARE PART D SERVICES

Linda reported that the State Bureau of Health Care's financial division, through the Medicare Modernization Act, has appropriated federal funds to states for medications. In Wisconsin, each county will use the funds to enhance benefit specialist services with regards to Part D. Washington County will receive \$26,226.00 through an 18-month allocation. The first funds should be received in April or May and the county will receive these funds for the next 18 months. The Office on Aging cannot hire another employee or take monies to support the education of Part D. Linda would like to work with another agency, on a contract basis, to cover education. The Southeast Area Agency on Aging or Senior Law could be contracted. Charlene asked if a temporary employee could be obtained. Linda explained that would not be the most cost effective option.

By March 15 plans need to be in place to start April 1. Activity will begin in June or July. Ralph asked if advertising could be done. Linda will do advertising through the Office on Aging. Ralph recommended having information at Senior Day at the Fair and the Senior Conference.

PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

Linda distributed 2005 information on the Pre-White House Conference on Aging. The Conference on Aging is held every 10 years in Washington. Preparation is done in October. Local units will be holding mini conferences. Wisconsin will gather older people and aging advocates in Oshkosh.

Linda distributed the agenda. The registration deadline is April 4. There are 11 areas of topics and they cover what Washington will be covering. There will be Caucus of people with certain interests. These representatives will come up with resolutions from Wisconsin with a chance to be heard and have these resolutions sent to Washington.

Representatives with legislative or advocacy type roles are the ones being sought after to go. Health and Aging Committee members fall into this representation.

Motion Ralph Hensel; second Delores Kruepke to send Charlene Brady to attend the Pre-White House Conference on Aging in Oshkosh. Motion Carried.

Charlene will attend the Social Security session at the conference. Charlene will choose "Financing Retirement" as a second choice. Ralph will attend the session on "Prescription Drugs". Ralph will choose "Financing and Long Term Care" as a second choice. The Office on Aging will handle sending in the applications. The conference will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh, WI.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Linda distributed Medicare Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Group medication information. The dates participants have to join are May 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.

Linda distributed the Governor's budget information from the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. The budget gives an idea of some of the items the governor would like to do.

CWAG is an advocacy group in Madison. They deal with Elder Law information. They have a web site to learn more about the organization.

Linda presented information regarding the Hartford Adult Day Center. Sharon Feucht runs the adult day center. OOA gave them a \$3,000 grant last year to purchase a tub. They are asking for another grant this year to assist in purchasing a lift. Sharon sent a picture of a Medicare lift, which is a transfer device for those who are severely disabled.

Motion Ralph Hensel; second Delores Kruepke to approve funding for a grant to cover the cost of a Medicare lift at the Hartford Adult Day Center pending the availability of funds. Motion Carried.

A summary of 2004 year end financial information was distributed.

Linda distributed the Area Agency on Aging plan. This deals with changes in population, SeniorCare, etc. and where Washington County fits in. Linda gave a copy of this to Pat Strachota, who is with Health and Aging with the state.

The Senior Conference will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2005 at Fair Park. There are 32 vendors who have registered so far. The Workshops are all set up. Registration

brochures should be out in a couple of weeks and Linda will distribute them to the Committee members.

The May meeting of the Health and Aging Committee is to be announced. The next meeting may be held at one of the meal sites.

The next meeting of the Health and Aging Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2005, immediately following the Board of Health meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. in Room 1000 A. After the meeting, the Committee will attend the Meadowbrook Manor II meal site for lunch. The Committee will discuss a summer schedule to visit other meal sites.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Ralph Hensel; second Delores Kruepke to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.