

**MINUTES
HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2005**

THOSE PRESENT: Linda Olson, Delores Kruepke, Charlene Brady, Ralph Hensel

CALL TO ORDER

The Health and Aging Committee was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chairperson Charlene Brady.

NOTICE OF POSTING

Notice of Posting was given by Mrs. Brady.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 7, 2005 MINUTES

Motion Delores Kruepke, second Ralph Hensel to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2005 meeting with correction to show that Ralph Hensel attended the Prescription Drug session and Charlene Brady attended the Social Security session at the Pre-White House Conference on Aging in Oshkosh. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION OF STATE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

Linda Olson distributed the report from the State White House Conference she received via email. She asked for suggestions from Charlene and Ralph, who attended the conference. Charlene attended the discussion on Social Security and reported on it. The majority of attendees were against the plan for going to individual accounts. They were not for privatization. Solutions were also discussed at the conference. One solution involved raising the Social Security tax cap to encompass 90 percent of all wages, to be phased-in over a five year period.

Ralph reported on attending the Prescription Drugs discussion. One item discussed was the fact that drug companies are lobbying and don't want costs of prescriptions to be lowered. Also discussed was the solution that Congress should pass re-importation legislation to allow citizens and pharmacies to purchase prescription drugs from Canada and other countries that have equal or better safety regulations.

The Committee members agreed that it was well worth their time to attend the conference.

DISCUSSION OF WEB PAGE FOR OFFICE ON AGING

Linda discussed the WEB page for OOA. Washington County has changed procedure on handling the WEB page. OOA now handles their own WEB page. OOA lists the Washington County Senior Center in West Bend and items in the Resource Directory.

The question has been raised if OOA could create a WEB page for the Senior Center. However, OOA covers the Hartford and Germantown Senior Centers as well on the WEB page. The Senior Center can be easily found on the WEB page. Linda doesn't know if anymore needs to be done or if there should be a separate site for the Senior Center. If

more is done for the Senior Center, OOA will have to talk to Information Systems because Germantown and Hartford will want their own page also.

A link could be added on the county WEB page under OOA. Linda asked for comments from the Committee. Charlene feels that if a link would satisfy the Senior Center that is what should be established. The OOA WEB master would have to load this in. The Committee agreed a link could be added to the OOA WEB page.

Loading the Senior Newsletter onto the County WEB page was discussed. The Senior Newsletter has Germantown and West Bend Senior Center trips listed each quarter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Helene Nelson, Secretary of DHSS, will be in Washington County on Wednesday, June 8, 2005. She will be having lunch at the Hartford Senior Center. Ralph and Charlene will attend the lunch.

Updates on Medicare Part D were discussed. There is a schedule of presentations being done through the Office on Aging. Linda asked the Committee members to try to get the word out that OOA will be having these presentations so as many people as possible will attend. The Committee discussed the plan.

Medicare Part D will go into effect January 2006. Nancy Bindas, Cheryl Gray, Kathy Beimborn and Jennie Pinnow will be doing the presentations.

OOA will take walk-ins on certain days and by appointments on certain days. Jennie Pinnow is an attorney with Senior Law and OOA is contracting with them for assistance. Home visits will also be done for homebound.

Senior Farmers Market vouchers will be available to qualified older adults. However, each year OOA gets less vouchers. There are only 64 slots this year, each with \$30 worth of vouchers.

Linda distributed brochures with the areas who will have farmers markets in Southeast Wisconsin. The brochures included maps and dates.

The vouchers will be distributed on a first come first served basis. Kristen Hosking and Kathy Beimborn, Office on Aging, have a schedule set up for presentations regarding the Farmers Market vouchers. Individuals will need to attend one of the presentations to be considered for receiving vouchers. Identification and verification of income will be required for consideration. Linda distributed schedules for the presentations which include income guidelines.

Linda distributed brochures for the statewide summit "The Challenge of an Aging Society". The summit will be held on June 27 – 28, 2005, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

There has not been a big response in registration to the summit. The registration deadline is June 3, 2005. Registration can be done online. Linda cannot attend. She will be attending another conference.

If approved, Committee members could attend and expenses would be covered. There may be more summits in the future. Registration for the summit is \$75.00. Registration after June 3rd will be an additional \$25.00.

Ralph mentioned that the Southeast Area Agency on Aging is having a conference at Ramada Inn in September, 2005. There will be a conference on November 3, 2005, in Brookfield regarding elder issues. Linda said that Wisconsin Counties Association is the organizer of the conference in September. Charlene may attend the summit "The Challenge of an Aging Society and will let us know.

There will be a Public Hearing tonight. Medicare Part D schedules and brochures will be distributed. Linda will be attending.

On June 11-17, 2005, Linda will be on vacation and out of the office.

The next meeting of the Health and Aging Committee will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1000 A of the Public Agency Center.

July 28, 2005 is Senior Citizen Day at the Fair. There will be special Programs at the Pavilion. There will be a discount on admission prices to the Fair for senior citizens on that day from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. OOA has entry forms for The Most Admired Senior Citizen contest. Washington County will have a tent at the Fair and OOA will have a booth.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Ralph Hensel to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

