

**MINUTES
HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005**

THOSE PRESENT: Linda Olson, Delores Kruepke, Charlene Brady, Kristen Hosking, Cheryl Gray

CALL TO ORDER

The Health and Aging Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Charlene Brady.

NOTICE OF POSTING

Notice of Posting was given by Mrs. Brady.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2005 MINUTES

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Charlene Brady to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2005 meeting. Motion Carried.

2006 COUNTY PLAN AMENDMENTS PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Olson discussed Public Hearing requirements of the Aging Unit Plan. Changes in the state reporting allowed extending the last plan, so OOA had to do only an amendment for 2006 and include any public comments. Linda distributed the format. There were no public comments.

There are requirements to work on in 2006 dealing with Section 6E, Information and Assistance. Priority areas include pertinent resource information. This would involve updating the resource directory quarterly. OOA would need to develop an online resource directory.

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Charlene Brady to approve the Aging Unit Plan for Older People 2003 – 2006. Motion Carried.

SENIOR DINING PROGRAM REPORT

Kristen Hosking, Office on Aging Dietitian reported on results of surveys done in 2005 regarding the Senior Dining Home Delivered and Congregate programs. Results of the surveys averaged out to be favorable responses to the meal program.

There were approximately 70 participants who turned in a survey. Some sites had a bigger response than others.

On the Home Delivered meal program – Fall 2005, 64 respondents – it was asked how many meals participants eat each day and if they receive hot and/or cold meals from the Senior Dining program. Some participants eat half the hot meal for lunch and half for supper. 69% rely on the Senior Dining program for lunch and/or supper (Hot and Cold meals). 46% of these did not eat breakfast. 31% of the home delivered meal participants said they did make breakfast and supper for themselves.

The national average for home delivered meal participants relying on the Senior Dining meals for lunch and/or supper is 62%. Washington County is higher with 69%.

There is concern about what participants are doing on weekends for meals. Extra cold meals are provided for holiday weekends when the meal sites are closed. For those participants who receive COP funding, they may be receiving in-home care/meal preparation on the weekends.

The containers for serving meals are being changed. The new container can go into the microwave. Participants are reporting the containers are easy to open. It gives a nicer presentation of the food. All sites will be changing to the new container. They are already being used at West Bend, Hartford and Slinger. Of the participants, 99% are happy with the new containers.

Of the Senior Dining participants, 100% felt the meals helped to keep them living in their own homes independently.

Kristen recently completed two more Steps for Healthier Aging classes. The classes were held at the Germantown Senior Activities Center and the Hartford Senior Center.

In Hartford, 14 people finished the class. Preliminary results are from 8 participants.

At the end of the class, a timed "Get up and Go" test is done to check mobility and flexibility. Participants get up out of a chair and walk across the room and come back to the chair. There were 8 out of 8 participants who improved their time.

Slinger and Jackson still need to have a class. Jackson showed interest. There is a big interest in West Bend for another class.

Participants prefer to have the class when the weather is nice and they can go outside to walk. The Boys and Girls club said their facilities could be used. They have a gym to walk inside in West Bend.

There are not enough volunteer drivers for home delivered meals at this time. This is especially true in Germantown. They could really use three drivers. OOA has been putting the word out to businesses and in newspapers. Charlene recommended putting a request on the Germantown Village web site. Volunteer drivers receive reimbursement for their mileage.

MEDICARE PART D REPORT

Cheryl Gray distributed information on Medicare Part D and the different plans. The packets are handed out at presentations or mailed out if phone inquiries.

So far presentations have reached over 1,000 people. There will be 15 presentations in October. There are 16 senior housing complexes where presentations will be done.

Mass presentations were done previously in June and July. OOA has been working with the Social Security office and their staff to qualify as many people with subsidy applications and filling them out. There has been 3-5 staff from OOA and Social Security at these presentations to offer one-on-one counseling.

Jennie Pinnow from Senior Law developed graphs to show the standard plan and extra help subsidy from the government. There is also an information sheet handed out with a list of Facts and Myths regarding Medicare Part D.

Also, distributed at the presentations is information on "How to Pick a Medicare Part D Prescription Plan". This asks beneficiaries to list names of medications, the dosage, the cost, and their pharmacy name and zip code.

There are 17 plans and 45 options within those plans. Each one is potentially different. They will need this information to choose a plan.

People who travel out of state during the winter months have to have plans that will work out of state as well as in Wisconsin or they will not be covered when they travel.

Open enrollment begins November 15 and goes to May 15, 2006.

Internet access will begin on October 13th. OOA staff will not be enrolling anyone unless there is not family to help them. Staff will give them the name and phone number of companies to have them call for themselves. There is a legal aspect for enrolling them in a plan that does not cover their medications. Or their doctor may put them on new medications that are not covered during the year. There are 17,500 Medicare beneficiaries in Washington County.

There is concern on how to cope with the volume of people coming through the OOA office. Appointments can only be 45 minutes to an hour. There will be three OOA staff available for appointments on days set aside for Medicare Part D. It is important to try to get adult children involved. Staff will be doing evening presentations also. Staff will have to keep up with regular work load. They will not be able to take walk-ins.

Cheryl told the Committee that there will be complaints that the OOA staff is not assisting them. Some people are choosing not to enroll because they don't take medications at the present time or they pay for their own medications and they don't worry about the penalty.

Cheryl presented the only approved logo for Medicare Part D. If this logo is not on a drug plan it is not an approved plan. This is a different logo from the Medicare Drug cards.

Cheryl asked the Committee to reassure anyone who calls that OOA will do what they can to help them. Jennie Pinnow will have office hours, one day a week there would be four people in the office to assist on the website.

On Monday Oct. 17th there will be three presentations in Room 1113 of the PAC. There will be a presentation at 9:30 a.m., another at 1:30 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. There will be an Internet presentation that day to demonstrate this process.

2006 BUDGET

Linda Olson reported that the requested budget was funded. The full time position item was negotiated because there will be no health insurance provided next year.

The Medical Center Foundation of Hartford has given OOA \$10,000 to get people off waiting lists to have Adult Day care provided. This will cover the remainder of this year. Next year there is the possibility more funds will be offered.

The Hartford Adult Day Center has moved into their new facility. The Committee will take a tour of the facility at one of their meetings.

The next meeting of the Health and Aging Committee is to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Delores Kruepke; second Charlene Brady to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.