

## **COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

**Stoughton Room, Stoughton Area Senior Center**

**Present:** Carol Heidenway, Ron Jensen, Don Mix, Mary Onsager, Jeanne Schwass-Long, Betty Thompson, Kay Davis, S. Boersma, Charlotte Snow, David Sharpe

**Staff Present:** Cindy McGlynn, Hollee Camacho, Kelly Janda

**Absent & Excused:** David Bacon, Charline Fleck

**Guest:** Nan Hoffman, Mayor Olson

**Call to order:** Jeanne Schwass-Long called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

**January Minutes:** Moved by D. Sharpe, seconded by D. Mix to approve; passed unanimously.

**Introductions:** Introduced newly appointed COA member, Nan Hoffman

**Director Comments:** Cindy McGlynn

- Flooring on main floor is complete...with scratches. These we are told were caused by our chairs and will be buffed out free of charge when we get our new chairs.
- We will participate in March for Meals again this year; watch newsletter for details.
- Hollee is working on the Annual Report; expected to be complete by our March meeting.

**In-Service:** Case Management, Kelly Janda

- Explained the difference between Information & Assistance, one-time help with isolated issues (general questions with Medicare, health insurance, Med D, etc.) and Case Management, more intensive, ongoing help for seniors to sustain their independence.
- Case Managers must stay up to date to assist with a full spectrum of City, County, State and Federal services for affordable housing, utilities, food, in-home, & financial assistance etc.
- Biggest challenge is to help people live with less as resources shrink; an especially difficult group to serve are unemployed, chronically sick 55-65 year olds who don't qualify for disability and aren't yet guaranteed an income with Social Security; also CM's are seeing more clients facing homelessness or near homelessness, AODA and mental health issues.
- CMs and clients together create long-term plans for long-term issues with accessing financial assistance from agencies (i.e. Seniors in Need, St. Vincent DePaul, etc)
- Cindy noted that our CMs have exceptional patience and graciousness. They are great at helping people with losses whether it be with jobs, spouses, homes, physical or cognitive abilities, etc., and with providing ideas on how to deal with uncomfortable, difficult discussion or decisions.
- Kelly answered questions from COA:
  - The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a referral source for when clients need a functional assessment to apply for Medical Assistance, or to a Benefit Specialist when a client has complicated Social Security or legal issues.
  - AODA is a prevalent, but under-reported concern in the aging population; many self-medicate with alcohol or Rx drugs to handle pain management, depression and factor for rise in falls and suicide rates.

- CMs are spending considerably more time with clients as their cases become more complex. It takes a lot of time to build trust with some clients struggling with Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse (AODA), mental health or other issues with stigmas.
- Confidentiality is followed with each client. Verbal or written consent forms are used when speaking with other agencies and even clients' family members.
- All clients have the right to refuse assistance.

**Program Committee Report:** Syttende Mai discussion

- As assigned by COA, the Program Committee met last week and discussed the topic of Syttende Mai. The minutes from that meeting were distributed (attached) along with past COA minutes regarding the topic.
- Discussed logistics of Committee's recommendation to check with the Chamber of Commerce if any organization(s) would be willing to rent the Center during the weekend (i.e. how secure the building, who would be available as the trained go-to person that's required by our Building Policy to open and close?
- Some COA members expressed interest in not renting the space and to instead share the responsibility tasks; a vote was taken and Kay Davis, Carol Heidenway and Jeanne Schwass-Long volunteered.
- D. Sharpe made a motion to table the discussion and M. Onsager seconded, for those who volunteered to meet and discuss how to cover the responsibilities associated with being open during the parade times, Sat. 11:30AM-1:30PM and Sun. 12:30-4:00PM.

**Senior Center Brochure:** no updated draft

When complete, S. Boersma suggested and Mayor Olson agreed it should be presented to Council.

**Legislative Update:** Carol Heidenway

- Distributed handout on Social Security Wisconsin fact; 96% of Wisconsinites over 65 years get Social Security and the monthly average is \$1300.
- Still work being done on the Wisconsin Private Secure Retirement Act which would allow for an employee's retirement account to follow him/her from job to job.
- Federal money has been budgeted for eliminating Social Security and Medicare Fraud.
- Although not officially introduced, a bill called the Care Act is being proposed by Milwaukee Senator Tim Carpenter which would allow people to designate if they want their caregivers to receive medical information and instructions from their doctors. AARP volunteers will be rallying at the Capitol next week in support.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Public Relations:** no meeting

**Finance:** no meeting

**Program:** meets again February 17

**Evaluation:** meeting TBD soon

**Meeting Adjourned:** Moved R. Jensen, seconded by Don Mix to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m**

**COA PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 9:30 AM**

**Stoughton Room, Stoughton Area Senior Center**

**Present:** Marilyn Granrud, Don Mix, Charlotte Snow, Mary Onsager

**Staff Present:** Cindy McGlynn, Hollee Camacho

**Meeting Topic:** Syttende Mai 2015

**History**

- Due to the liability, safety concerns, expense of the extra staffing and cleaning necessary to be open, along with past years failed fundraising efforts to cover these costs, Cindy recommends again this year that the COA motion to close the Senior Center during the Syttende Mai weekend.
- Since the COA's motion last January, some Senior Center participants are upset with this decision and wish to have the space open by volunteers to view the parades.
- In July, Cindy referred the discussion back to the City to get clarification on the City Building Use Policy, especially regarding liability concerns when City staff are not present.
- Currently the City Building Use Policy will be discussed at the February meeting of the City Council's Public Works Committee.

**Program Committee Discussion**

- The group discussed some fundraising ideas raised by M. Onsager but determined they would not be profitable or viable for this year's Syttende Mai timeframe.
- Moved by M. Onsager, and seconded by C. Snow to recommend to COA that Cindy check with the Chamber of Commerce if any organization(s) would be willing to rent the Senior Center during Syttende Mai. If no one chooses to do this, then the Senior Center should close; passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM