



**DHHS - State Unit on Aging
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2013 10:00 am-2:00 pm
4623 2nd Avenue Kearney, Nebraska**

Present: Colleen Andrews, Charlotte Anne Dorwart, Rodale Emken, Doyle Howitt, Michael Millea, Kenneth Niedan, Clare Schmidt, Kathy Stokebrand, Christine Sueverkrupepp

Absent: Roderick Hughes, Jacqueline Kuxhausen, Armin Daubendiek,

Staff: Penny Clark-Manger, Emily Hroch-Assistant

Guests: Rod Horsley, SCNAAA Director

Rodale Emken: Called the meeting to order and took roll call. Rodale welcomed the committee.

Penny Clark: The SUA Update

The State Unit on Aging went from three staff to six staff which will probably be the max staff for the Unit. Vicki is out on medical leave and Penny is training Emily to do fiscal.

Penny talks about the new Managed Care which affects our whole population that is on Medicaid. Medicaid will have a request to bid for the managed care provider. Health and Human Services is still in charge of making people eligible for Medicaid. Staff working on Managed Care has set up town hall meetings to discuss the Managed Care process.

Medicaid and Children family Services had a reorganization move on July 1, 2013. If the program is funded by Children and Family Services, the program moved under their division. If someone wants to apply for Medicaid and SNAP, they will have to apply for both separately.

Penny Clark: Aging & Disability Resource Center Update

The Unit is still deciding on the name for ADRC but the website will go live on January 1, 2014. The ADRC is going to be a One Stop website for all ages to find helpful resources. The Unit requested an extension on the ADRC Grant and the Government shutdown shortly after the request. The ADRC and Money Follows the Person Advisory Committee are working together to get the website up and running. The first meeting is November 16th and is state wide.

Penny Clark: Elder Abuse Training

Madhavi Bhadbhade is putting together the Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation and Elder Rights Issues training on December 17, 2013 at NET and will be available at 12 other sites around the State. This year the focus for the training is more on legal issues instead of fraud. Adult Protective Services is really trying to get the word out about fraud and ways to protect and educate seniors.

Penny Clark: Senior Farmer's Market Coupons

Donna Handley is the Nutrition Program Specialist that works with the Department of Agriculture to put on Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. There are 4,770 people that received the coupons this year. The redemption rate is at 60.5% as of October 2nd and is projected to reach 88% by the end of the program. Donna is working on improvements for next year's program to make the process easier for distribution of coupons. Instead of working with each individual senior center, the coupons would be distributed by the AAA to the senior centers to insure proper distribution. Not all the senior centers can afford to send in the packet and other required information to participate in the SFMNP. Donna and Penny are going to find out what paperwork is for the Federal Government and only have that paperwork returned to the SUA to reduce costs for senior centers.

Committee Member Updates

Kathy Stokebrand:

The Dewitt and many local Senior Centers are running on volunteers and one paid employee. They have an evening meal and that seems to help bring in more people than in the afternoon.

Doyle Howitt:

The Peterson Senior Center has congregate meals five days a week and usually has 75-100 people attend daily. Celebrating birthdays and anniversaries brings in a large crowd more than the meals.

Ken Niedan:

The Hershey Senior Center is struggling to keep people attending. The center usually has 7-9 people daily. They have had to cut back on congregate meals since they are costing the center too much money.

Christine Sueverkruupp:

Bennett uses the one on one approach and it works really well. Christine has helped people understand AccessNE and reaching them for services.

Michael Millea:

Michael has eaten at four different senior centers and the food was decent. Michael's major concern is the Farmer's market coupons not getting used.

Clare Schmidt:

Grand Island has a group of representatives that contribute different services to seniors that has gone over well. One example is an exercise program that provides exercise machines to the seniors. The representatives raised money to provide new equipment.

Charlotte Anne Dorwart:

Vic Walker, Director at Aging Office of Western Nebraska, is retiring and will be missed. Senior centers are using community buildings for gatherings. The new senior center director is coming up with new ideas and trips that the people really enjoy. The senior centers tried an evening meal to attract more people to the center but it did not go over well.

Colleen Andrews:

Lincoln area also has a group that promotes services to seniors. Health promotion is a big goal for the group and provides scholarships to individuals that are interested in helping with this group. The "Be a Fan" project, which donated around 700 fans to seniors, was a big success for the Lincoln area.

Mark Intermill, AARP:

Mark discusses putting away money in trust funds to finance in the future. Mark would like to have a representative from the Advisory Committee to attend the Legislative meeting November 13th at 10:00 a.m. Colleen volunteered to attend the meeting and would like everyone to send in information about their service area by October 31st.

Penny:

The SUA still has money from 2013 so the Government shutdown should not affect payments at this time.

The Hunger Summit was held to bring people together who provide meals to seniors to make a plan and create awareness. They plan to have more to create awareness.

The SUA applied for and received a legal service grant. Only 6 out of the 32 applicants received the grant. The grant money will be used to provide law clinics around the State and continue the Elder Access Line. The first law clinic will be held at the Beatrice Senior Center November 15th.

Penny is in the process of updating NAMIS; the program is used to report for the AAA and SUA.

The SUA will send out letters for members whose terms are up in March 2014.

2015 funding to the AAA will be less due to 2010 census.

Next Meeting:

April 9, 2014

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.