

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING BOARD
MINUTES
March 4, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Jerome Laufenberg at 1:05 p.m. in the Extension Conference Room, Iowa County Courthouse, Dodgeville, WI.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL: There were no introductions.

Roll call was taken by Betty Walsh.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Brown, Jerome Laufenberg, MaryClaire Murphy, Geri Peterson, Doris Raisbeck, Mary Richter, Ted Van Epps, Rosalie Zweifel, Shelly Kloppe.

STAFF PRESENT: Judy Lindholm, Betty Walsh, Nancy Howard.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Emma Abplanalp, Richard Heimerl..

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lorraine Jones and Phil Roberts

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING: Judy Lindholm reported the meeting had been properly posted as required by law. A motion to approve the certification was made by Ted Van Epps and seconded by Rosalie Zweifel. Motion carried without negative vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Carolyn Nagel-Thomas and seconded by Geri Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried without negative vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Carolyn Nagel-Thomas and seconded by Geri Peterson to approve the minutes. Motion carried without negative vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Judy Lindholm handed out the February Financial Report for the Commission on Aging Board to review.

BENEFIT SPECIALIST REPORT: Nancy Howard, Benefit Specialist, handed out the February Benefit Specialist Report and reviewed it with the Commission on Aging Board.

Nancy reported she and Alvina had a busy month with Homestead Credit and Alvina being gone.

Nancy reported she attended a training in Madison on Medicare Part D & ELC Training. Nancy reported on the details regarding individual Part D drug plans. Individual plans' cost sharing requirements will not be available until October 15, 2005.

Nancy stated that low-income beneficiaries will begin receiving information from the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as early as May, 2005. Nancy reported that CMS will conduct a test mailing to 2,000 low-income beneficiaries throughout the country in March, but the mailing to all low-income beneficiaries will not occur until May. Nancy reported on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan that will begin on January 1, 2006. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to apply for this new Part D benefit beginning on November 15, 2005. Any one on Medicare Part A or Part B benefit is eligible for the Part D Drug Benefit. Drug plans are allowed to be design formularies. A formulary is a list of drugs that a drug plan will cover. Nancy reported that by October 15, 2005, CMS must provide information to Medicare beneficiaries regarding Part D drug plans available to them along with information regarding the various plans' formularies. A discussion ensued regarding Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits.

Nancy urged all Commission on Aging Board members to write to Wisconsin Representative Steve Freese, Wisconsin State Senator Dale Schultz, our U. S. Congressman Ron Kind and U. S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russell Feingold. Nancy passed out the addresses for these government officials.

COUNTY AGENCY REPORTS: Shelly Kloppe, Iowa County Social Services reported that there is Supportive Home Care available and they are adding more people to their list. Shelly stated they had received a guardianship Grant for recruitment and training of volunteers to become guardians.

SUN REPORT: Jerome Laufenberg reported that they have not had a meeting and would be meeting on March 7th.

AREA AGENCY REPORTS: Geri Peterson reported they have not met since our last meeting and they will meet on April 18th.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT: Carolyn Nagel-Thomas reported they had no pressing issues at this time and will be meeting on June 16th and 17th, at the Park Plaza.

USE OF SPECIAL MEDICARE PART D AWARENESS GRANT: Judy Lindholm reported that we have received a \$10,000 Part D Educational Grant to advise folks on the Prescription Drug Program Part D. Judy stated there is going to be many questions regarding Part D. Judy stated we would like to add one more day for Nancy from June, 2005 until October, 2006, to help explain the Medicare Drug Program Part D as there will be a lot of questions. Judy had a work sheet showing the proposed use of Special Medicare Part D Education Grant so the Commission on Aging Board could see how she proposed to use the funds, total wage and fringe \$8,665.77 and travel and copies \$1334.23. A motion was made by Rosalie Zweifel and seconded by Carol Brown to approve the proposal Judy presented for the above \$10,000 Grant. Motion carried without negative vote.

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Betty Walsh handed out the January and February transportation reports for the Commission on Aging Board to review as Betty was unable to attend the January and February meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND TRAINING: Judy reported that she went to Dubuque on Monday, February 28th. She found it was an interesting day and enjoyed talking with the people and taking some pictures and listening to some of their stories of riding on the bus. The pictures along with a speech will be presented by one of the WRAPP Board Members in Washington DC.

Judy reported that she attended a meeting in Madison on a 6 million dollar increase request in the 85.21 grant for transportation. Dale Schultz is for this increase and Judy stated she thinks it has a good chance of going through which would probably give us and extra \$10,000 for transportation in 2006 and \$20,000 in 2007. This would enable us to expand our transportation services.

Judy reported that the White House Conference on Aging is going to be held in October in Washington D. C. Judy stated that our U. S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators are only allowed to invite a certain number of people. The Office on Aging will probably be able to invite a couple more. It doesn't look like any of us here will be invited to go.

Judy stated that on April 18, a delegation will be going to Oshkosh to discuss what they think are the most important things that should be discussed at the White House Conference in October. This is the seniors opportunity to let them know what is important to them. Judy stated that she is thinking about going together with four other counties to get a bus for some of us to go to Oshkosh to voice our opinions.

Judy reported that on May 11th, there is going to be a rally at the Capitol in Madison which the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups is sponsoring. Judy stated we will be looking into the possibility of going in with some other counties to take a bus to the rally.

Judy reported that the WRAPP Annual Spring Conference is being held in Mosinee on April 25th and 26th and she and Betty would like to attend. Judy stated that a grant from the DOT would pay 75% of the cost. A motion was made by Geri Peterson and seconded by Doris Raisbeck to let Judy and Betty attend the WRAPP Spring Conference at Mosinee on April 25th and 26th. Motion carried with negative vote.

ACTION ON FINANCIAL REPORT: A motion was made by Carolyn Nagel-Thomas and seconded by Geri Peterson to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried without negative vote.

REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Rosalie Zweifel reported she had papers for the SHARE Program. She stated SHARE will be distributed on March 19, 2005 at Kindercastle from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Rosalie reported that AARP would be meeting on March 15th and the Spring Birthdays would be celebrated at that time. This will take place at Stonefield.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Iowa County Commission on Aging Board will be held on April 1, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in the Extension Conference Room,

Iowa County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Rosalie Zweifel and seconded by Carolyn Nagel-Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Motion carried without negative vote.

Respectfully submitted;

Betty Walsh, COA Secretary

MaryClaire Murphy, COA Board Secretary