

Land of Sky Regional Council
Advisory Council on Aging Minutes
July 10, 2014

Present: Charles Dickens, Bob Tomasulo, Calvin Titus, Dena Stephens, Louise Koontz, Penny James

Staff: LeeAnne Tucker, Janice Payne, Carol McLimans, Nancy Hogan, Terry Collins, Julia Gibson, Ruth Price, Sherry Christensen

Guests: Annie Butzner, Susan Reed

Welcome and Introductions: Charles Dickens welcomed the Council and asked staff and guests to introduce themselves.

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Louise Koontz and seconded by Bob Tomasulo.

Presentation: Robert Anderson from KOALA

KOALA (Keeping Older Adults Living Abundantly) provides adult day services as an alternative to long term care. The cost is \$50 a day or \$55 if health care management is needed. Many folks can't afford the service but funding is available. We are funded through block grants, United Way, respite care funds and private funds and Long Term Care insurance is also accepted. There are approximately 28 participants a day in the program. This is the only facility of its type in Transylvania County and will soon become CarePartners of Transylvania County. Adult day is a much more affordable alternative than long term care and may become the way of the future. We are also assisted by many volunteers from the community.

Presentation: Susan Reed, Program Coordinator, Veterans Directed Home & Community Based Services Program, presented a power point presentation on My Care My Choice.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Louise Koontz and seconded by Bob Tomasulo.

Updates from Henderson, Buncombe and Madison Counties: None from Madison and Buncombe

Henderson: Cal said Henderson was quiet. There was a Triad meeting in Hendersonville that we attended in hopes that we could start the program to Henderson County in the near future.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL): Cal Titus reported that they met in Raleigh June 12 and 13 for its mid-term meeting of 2014. The primary focus was on the process of culling submitted resolutions that will be presented to the main STHL body at the October meeting. When the resolutions are reduced to a significant few and voted on, they then become the priorities for the STHL for the next two years.

Once committee work was completed, the remainder of the schedule for the two days included a workshop on "Advocacy," presented by Deanna R. Gelak, President of "Working for the Future." Also, a panel consisting of the Executive Director of the Center for Volunteer Caregiving, Lynn Templeton, a STHL Delegate from Chatham County, Anne Kissel and the STHL Speaker, Chuck Youse, presented a group discussion on "Volunteerism," sharing data that described the typical volunteer and sharing successes and lessons learned.

The Interim Director for the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Suzanne Merrill spoke at length about Elder Abuse and that "President Obama had issued a proclamation designating June 15 as a World Elder Abuse awareness day." Governor McCrory also issued a similar proclamation. She went on to say that the "division sponsored its first Elder Abuse summit on May 30 in North Carolina and they had a great

turn out, about 50 people showed up.” Merrill went on to say that one of the highlights of the summit was the “establishment of a coalition around Elder Abuse to address prevention, detection and prosecution.” Elder Abuse Awareness is being promoted from May 11–June 15, 2014.

To top off the meeting, a group of seniors calling themselves the “Piedmont Cheering Hearts” from the Winston-Salem area, ranging in age from 53 to 85 put on an exhibition of their cheers that won them gold medals at the regional Senior Games in early 2014. They had even modified their chants to include the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, thus bringing a loud applause from the STHL seniors that represent all 100-counties in North Carolina. The next STHL meeting will be October 9-10, 2014.

Staff Reports and Challenges: LeeAnne asked if there were any questions about the staff reports that had been mailed to all and asked Carol McLimans to speak about challenges.

Carol indicated that the media is not responding to requests, therefore, information is not getting to the public. Robert Anderson stated his observation has been that if someone is willing to write an article or send a picture then it is more likely to be included in the press.

Ruth stated that Buncombe County nursing homes are in need of Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members. It has been her experience that the best members come from former members so if council knows anyone who might be willing to serve please pass the information on.

Cal asked Ruth about her attendance at Resident Council Meetings. Ruth indicated that Ombudsman have to be invited to these meetings but can sometimes initiate an invitation. The meetings are very helpful. Cal feels these meeting are very important and hope that ombudsman can find ways to get involved. His experience has been that residents are sometimes hesitant to talk to a group of CAC members.

Director’s Reports: LeeAnne Tucker introduced new ombudsman Julia Gibson who has replaced Barbara Hinshaw. Ruth presented a bio of Julia.

LeeAnne indicated that interviews for Rebecca Chaplain’s replacement will be held July 31. In September, we will be mailing out our area plan update. Please look this over before our October meeting so you can provide recommendations.

LeeAnne passed out the LOS budget. We are fortunate that AAA/Volunteer has had little change.

Other Business: The October 9 meeting is scheduled during the same time as STHL meeting in Raleigh. After discussion, it was decided to move meeting to October 2 at the new Fletcher Town Hall. They are not officially open yet but we are on their calendar tentatively and will be notified when they open. One of the discussions Charles proposed for October meeting is to decide if we are going to continue to rotate locations. Another discussion that may come out of meeting is how staff reports could be modified to give more information without a major burden on staff. An example might be to provide information on significance of the activity. For example, is it mandated a required activity, were you invited, are you there to provide a function of your job description, etc.

LeeAnne indicated that there was a guest in the audience who would like to make a few comments. Annie Butzner introduced herself and passed out information about voting in a healthcare facility.

Louise thanked everyone for coming to Transylvania and hopes that everyone will get out and enjoy the county.

Submitted by: Janice Payne, AAA Program Support Specialist