

**Land of Sky Regional Council
Advisory Council on Aging Minutes**

October 2, 2014

Present: Charles Dickens, Bob Tomasulo, Calvin Titus, Penny James, Everett Sauer, LinDa Campbell, Patricia Stanley, Kathe Harris, Delores Stroup

Staff: LeeAnne Tucker, Janice Payne, Carol McLimans, Nancy Hogan, Julia Gibson, Ruth Price, Sherry Christensen, John Connell, Stephanie Stewart, John Reilly

Guests: Trina Stokes, Curt Crowhurst

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 Kathe Harris and seconded by Bob Tomasulo.

Presentations:

Mark Biberdorf, Fletcher Town Manager

Welcomed everyone to the new Fletcher Town Hall and gave a brief history and overview of the new facility. It is the first building in the development of Fletcher downtown area.

Trina Stokes, Executive Director of Council on Aging for Henderson County

In Henderson County there is no waiting list for meals on wheels. In July and August there were 7545 meals served which translates to approximately 175 a day. However, this is down from the 200 served last year during the same time. We are going to look into why there has been a shift. At the congregate meal site there has been an increase in the amount served. The site is averaging about 30 folks a day.

We have partnered with local Department of Social Services. Case management needs have increased. There is a transitions team that is meeting to determine how to get older adults back into their homes from the hospital or long term care facilities. There are about 25 folks on the team which includes nurses, doctors, directors of nursing, executive directors, and discharge planners. Within the partnership there were 254 in July and 274 in August who needed case management. There are approximately 265 volunteers a month who keep our services going.

The aging demographic in Henderson County is really growing. The age range of 55-65 year olds has increased 36.7% and these folks will quickly become the folks that Council on Aging will be serving.

Curt Crowhurst, Chair of Henderson County Triad

TRIAD Henderson is a partnership to reduce criminal victimization of older persons and improve the safety and well-being of elders through collaborations. It is a nation-wide program through the National Sheriff's Association. It was organized in spring 2014 with interested community members and Henderson Law Enforcement. It includes the sheriff, Hendersonville Police, Laurel Park Police, Fletcher Police, and Council on Aging. The first community wide meeting was held July 10 at the Opportunity House. The community groups and organizations that are part of Triad Henderson include: DSS – Adult Protection Services, Council on Aging, Henderson County Sheriff, City of Hendersonville Police, Laurel Park Police Department, Fletcher Police Department, HOPE RX, Senior Service Providers and non-profits, banks, insurance companies, in-home care, assisted living facilities, Land of Sky Regional Council, pharmacies, Pisgah Legal Services and hospital home health programs.

Council on Aging developed a community survey about issues of safety, theft, security, prescription abuse, etc. with results from Meals on Wheels and Sammy Williams Center clients. The survey is now going out to residents of Laurel Park and Fletcher residents to gain a larger picture of senior community issues and concerns around safety and security.

We now have a Facebook page to inform and connect the community to current issues and ways to keep our seniors safe and secure.

Triad Henderson meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 9, at City of Hendersonville Police Roll Call Room and the next will be November 13 at the Pine Park Senior Community.

We participated in the Aging in Place Conference last week at the Blue Ridge Community College with a table of information which was manned by volunteers from the group. Triad hosted a shred event at a conference. The conference was sponsored by Always Best Care, C&C Senior Services and Hilliard Lyons. Thanks to the work of TRIAD Henderson, Curt Crowhurst was recognized with the Advocacy – Awareness Award by Aging Projects, Inc.

We are working to find our best niche in the community and provide relevance for supporting organizations. We are especially pleased with the involvement of Law Enforcement, DSS, COA, Senior Service Providers and Senior Organizations. We are also pleased to support the efforts of HOPE RX and work in cooperation with their efforts around prescription drug issued in Henderson County. We are also talking with WTZQ about a monthly segment on senior fraud, abuse exploitation, etc.

Marty Welsh, Council on Aging of Buncombe County

Was not able to be present for presentation.

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

Updates from Henderson, Buncombe and Madison Counties:

Transylvania: Kathe Harris noted that she participated in *A Matter of Balance* assessment at LOS which was very beneficial since she fell during the summer and broke her wrist. She also pointed out that NC has the only Transylvania County in the US and Halloween is a big deal there with a weekend festival. LeeAnne indicated that Louise is not present due to birth of grandchild and will be retiring January 31, 2015.

Buncombe: Penny spoke about the VA and how to address recent issues. There are flu vaccine events coming up. Many folks are not aware that they are eligible for services and trying to get the word out. Cal Titus pointed out that Henderson County has a designated VA representative to help veterans determine their eligibility and wondered if other counties have the same. Penny indicated that they do but some may be part-time. Carol McLimans indicated that Madison does not but they are served from the District 12 Office in Canton. Carol will provide a list of the officers in the counties.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL):

Cal Titus reported that they will meet in Raleigh next Thursday and Friday. There is nothing specific to report at this time. The meeting next week will be to determine the five resolutions we want to support throughout the state. There are 12 resolutions selected and each member has been asked to pick their top 5. Cal feels that all 12 resolutions are important and should be promoted in some way. He passed around the resolutions for input from advisory committee and read the heading of each resolution. After presenting each resolution, he told the committee which five the NC STHL decided to support the most. The ones chosen were number 12, 3, 8, 9 & 1.

Staff Reports and Challenges: LeeAnne asked if there were any questions about the staff reports that had been mailed. Next quarter staff will report their top ten items with the top one highlighted. LeeAnne introduced Stephanie Stewart and John Reilly as new employees at Land of Sky. The staff challenge was the aging report plan which was included in the packet.

LeeAnne asked if there were any questions or discussion about The Aging Plan which had been included in packet. The committee had the opportunity to ask staff questions.

Director's Reports:

LeeAnne said they are still working towards the Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services Program and staff is in the process of training.

Other Business:

Charles asked if the committee was willing to continue the current pattern of rotating meetings between the four counties. Kathe Harris motioned to continue, Penny James seconded. Motion passed.

Kathe Harris announced that there will be a Caregiver Appreciation Event on November 14 in Fletcher.

Next meeting will be January 8 at Lakeview Senior Center in Black Mountain.

Submitted by: Janice Payne, AAA Program Support Specialist