

Minutes for May 18, 2017 Caregiver Advisory Meeting

Attending: Ann Wisenhunt, Caron McKay, Donna Case, Heather Bauer, Kathe Harris, Laura Baker-Seseika, LEEANNE TUCKER, Nancy Hogan, Pat Hilgendorf, Penny James, Robert Ford, Ruth Butler and Carol McLimans

Introductions were made and Carol distributed the February meeting minutes.

Katelyn Redden, Kinship Coordinator from the Bair Foundation spoke about the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren. Kinship (grandparent and other older relatives) care is a part of the Family Caregiver Support Program and past support has included purchase of items such as beds and mattresses. We have provided respite for some kinship caregivers by paying for the child to attend a summer program or camp. Kinship caregivers must be age 55 or older to receive these services and must be raising the child who lives with them. The child does not need to have a disability.

Copies of the caregiver needs and resources that we worked on at the February meeting were distributed. From this, Heather offered to put together a caregiver survey that will be widely distributed.

The Transylvania and Madison Counties Senior Directories need to be updated. Pat is working on the Transylvania directory updates now. Buncombe and Henderson Counties usually do their own updating.

Land-of-Sky will be showing the caregiver documentary, CARE, on Friday, November 3rd, from 3:30 – 5:00pm in honor of Family Caregiver Month. We would like to see about 100 people attend.

Health Care Decisions Day events were held in all our counties Carol coordinated the events in Madison and Transylvania counties. Participants completed their advance directives and expressed appreciation for this opportunity.

The Family Caregiver Program was a sponsor and exhibitor at the Alzheimer's Association's Caregiver Conference in Asheville. Carol and Pat attended. Total attendance was about 250 people.

Twenty people completed the Powerful Tools for Caregivers class leader training that was held at Land-of-Sky. Five participants were from Region B counties with the remainder from across NC and other states. Stephanie Stewart will work with Carol to help leaders from Region B promote and offer this program in our counties.