



MINUTES
Family Caregiver Support Program Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Present:

Members:

Kathe Harris, Ruth Butler, Deborah Chestnutt, Helen Hall

Guests,

Helen Hall, Kevin Calhoun

Presenter:

Jerry Mann, Transylvania County Sheriff's Office

Staff:

Carol McLimans, Nancy Hogan, Janice Payne, Pat Hilgendorf, LeeAnne Tucker

Carol called the meeting to order and asked for introductions around the table.

Project Lifesaver Program Presentation: Officer Jerry Mann from the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office made a presentation on the Project Lifesaver Program. It is a public safety program designed to protect and locate missing persons due to wandering. Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and there needs to be a way to help monitor those who may wander. If a person wanders away and is not found within 48 hours the mortality rate is 49% . The program places radio transmitters on identified persons to help caregivers and local emergency agencies locate the person. There is a 30 day system where the battery needs to be changed every 30 days. There is a group of volunteers who maintain a database and reminds caregivers that the battery needs to be changed. There is a one time fee of \$350 for the transmitter that includes a year supply of batteries. After that there is a \$20 monthly fee. Most of the funding comes from private and corporate donations and grants. Donations are used for programs, rescues and educational expenses. There is also a 60 day transmitter which is higher power and

longer life. The range for these transmitters is between ¼ to ¾ mile depending on weather conditions and terrain.

Caregiver Month Event Report: Carol brought in the proclamation for National Caregiver Month and also the sponsor board which was at the event thanks to Skyland EMT who allowed her to bring it to the emergency room with her. Pat reported that the event went well even though Carol was not able to attend. There were 48 caregivers in attendance who received lunch, massages, makeovers, and heard drummers and other presentations.

Caregiver Program Report: Carol indicated that the Area Plan updates must be done annually. Also, publicity for these events did not seem to get printed and hopefully we can determine a way to receive recognition. Media was notified several times about LOS events in November but did not respond to our requests.

Online learning: respite modules. Carol will get more information on how to access this information. It takes an hour to access each module and there are four modules. Here is the website for the trailer:

<http://ssw.unc.edu/cares/lifespan%20respite/trailer/story.html>.

Senior Services Directories. Carol indicated that we still need volunteers to update the Transylvania County directory but Madison County has been updated but not yet printed. LeeAnne and Carol met with COA for Buncombe for discussion on adding for profits to this directory which has not been printed in several years. The conclusion is that home care agencies will be included in a separate section.

Around the room:

Ruth Butler: The decision whether to continue overnight respite is coming up. If you have figures to help support this need please let her know. This is a pilot program and is in jeopardy. Private pay will not be offered either and if it expires, it will no longer be available.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 19, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at Land of Sky.