

Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council Meeting
January 19, 2016
Land of Sky Regional Council

Present – Gaylyn Justice, Betty Barrier, Willa Boswell, Porter Jennings, Barbara Johnson, Rich Lee, Danna Stansbury

Staff - Stacy Friesland, LeeAnne Tucker, Ann Whisenhunt

Gaylyn Justice called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gaylyn asked for approval of November minutes. Two corrections needed- change date of FGP Holiday event to the 13th and the SCP event to the 12th of December. Other than the date corrections, the motion was made by Danna Stansbury, seconded by Barbara Johnson. Motion carried.

Program Happenings:

Foster Grandparent Program *Stacy Friesland:* Holiday Luncheon- FGP celebrated the volunteers and season on December 13th at Calvary Baptist Church's fellowship hall. With the \$500 earned by the sale of the donated porcelain dolls, we were able to provide a full lunch for the volunteers. The volunteers' response to the event was so positive- they were thrilled that we were able to provide a meal, as opposed to a light continental breakfast. Stacy thanked TD Bank for their donation of reusable bags for each volunteer and also thanked the Advisory Members that came and assisted with the event- it was greatly appreciated.

FGP Mid-Year Progress Report is due on January 31, 2017. During the first half of the program year, July 1- Dec 31, 2016, 72 FGP volunteers served 39,043 hours working one-on-one with 149 children in 25 stations.

Students from a Mars Hill University Social Work class will be doing interviews with 12 Foster Grandparent volunteers this semester to talk about the volunteers' life stories. At the end of the semester, the students will give a presentation on the volunteer's life to the class and volunteers that participated in the project.

Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting volunteers for Madison and Transylvania Counties. Stacy requested help from Advisory Members in spreading the word and had flyers available for members to take.

Senior Companion Program *Ann Whisenhunt:* Holiday Luncheon- SCP celebrated the volunteers and season on December 12th at Land of Sky Regional Council. My Sisters and I catered a full breakfast. Three Senior Companion volunteers were recognized for their years of service awards. Carolynn Cohron received her 15 year Plaque, but was unable to attend due to illness, Nancy Whaley received her 10 year plaque, and Barbara Johnson received her 5 year

plaque. Cecilia Miller was recognized as the longest serving Senior Companion with almost 18 years of service.

Challenges- Senior Companion volunteers have been serving lots of hours, people, and miles. Until this point there has not been any restrictions on hours or mileage; however, to stay within budget for the remainder of the year reductions will have to be made. Volunteer hours and mileage will be capped through June 30, 2017.

Both Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs are awaiting their Notice of Funding Awards (NOFA). SCP is expecting its Federal funding level to be \$309,268 and FGP is expecting its Federal funding level to be \$335,654. Both Programs will be writing year 1 of the 3 year grant cycle and will be required to meet their 10% match annually. LeeAnne Tucker will be presenting to the Land of Sky Regional Council's Executive Committee on February 25th that both Programs will be able to meet the required match and that we have documentation of match needed for the next year. The Programs will need the approval of the Executive Committee in order to apply for the Grants in April. LeeAnne does not foresee any problems as both programs have shown documentation and a plan for securing match next year.

Gaylyn Justice thanked Ann and Stacy for their hard work.

Non Profit Discussion Status *Danna Stansbury*: Danna reported that Land of Sky Regional Council's Executive Director was supportive of obtaining a non-profit status. Justin has talked to other Councils of Governments (GOGs) in regards to their non-profit statuses and has recommended that a committee to move forward. Danna has worked with Nathan Ramsey, who is also an attorney, to understand some of the steps needed to obtain non-profit status. Danna reported that there are many steps and a lot of grey areas. Discussion continued as to whether the non-profit arm should be just Area Agency on Aging or if it should be for all of Land of Sky. It was suggested that the other department Directors be asked if their departments could benefit from the non-profit arm at the next Leadership Team meeting. If so then the committee researching the non-profit status could include members of their Advisory Councils as well.

Gaylyn asked how we need to proceed and Danna suggested that a member(s) of the Advisory Council and/or staff to talk to Justin and emphasize the need so that we can begin to move forward. Rich shared that he had helped his neighborhood get their 501©3 and offered suggestions in what was beneficial for them. His suggestions included consulting a retired attorney, transferring membership of this current Advisory Council to the new board that will be needed for the non-profit board, and some good examples of non-profit Boards that were established because they were governmental entities.

Willa Boswell noted that there were a number of grants available for non-profits and that it could be very beneficial to us.

Fundraising Decisions *Stacy Friesland:* Members voted on fundraising ideas that the Advisory Council came up with during the November meeting. Ideas voted on included the Fun Walk for Kids and Grandparents, Volunteer Fashion Show, local restaurants sharing a percentage of their sales for a day, Barnes and Noble gift-wrapping event, and selling tickets at Asheville Tourist Game. Danna offered to follow up to see if selling tickets at the Tourist game would be an option. A few new ideas were shared including a miniature golf tournament. Parker Jennings suggested a raffle and how successful they had been in his experience. Rich Lee shared that Earth Fare and Greenlife Grocers donation of 10% of their sales on particular days during the month.

Rich Lee suggested that the Foster Grandparent Program needed parent advocates that could go to PTO meeting on behalf of the Program to request funding needed to provide lunches for their volunteers.

Ann Whisenhunt stated that while the fundraising event(s) would raise necessary funds it would also serve as community exposure which is essential for our Programs survival in the future. Willa Boswell agreed and emphasized that the Programs need to be marketed.

Member Commitments for the Year *Ann Whisenhunt:* Ann asked Advisory Council members to commit to one thing that will help our Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion Programs in the next year. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to commit to an activity.

Updates for the Community

Rich Lee shared that he is starting his run for City Council this spring.

Gaylyn thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned.