

Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council Meeting
May 18, 2017
Land of Sky Regional Council

Present- Gaylyn Justice, Betty Barrier, Woodie Dyches, Kathe Harris, Porter Jennings, and Barbara Johnson

Staff- Stacy Friesland, LeeAnne Tucker, Ann Whisenhunt

Gaylyn Justice called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gaylyn asked for approval of March minutes. No corrections needed. The motion was made by Kathe Harris, seconded by Woodie Dyches. Motion carried.

Program Happenings:

Foster Grandparent Program *Stacy Friesland:* Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting heavily in Madison and Transylvania Counties for volunteers. Stacy requested help from Advisory Members to help distribute recruitment flyers included in packet.

Stacy reported about the Mars Hill University Social Work class collaboration, in which students held interviews with 10 Foster Grandparent volunteers this semester to talk about the volunteers' life stories. Stacy attended the student presentations documenting the life stories of the volunteer to the class and volunteers that participated in the project. Mars Hill professor Meredith Hammond will be giving a presentation at the May 24th Council Meeting to share her experience with the collaboration in honor of Older American's month. Mars Hill student Brittany Sherlin also attended and shared her personal experience.

Foster Grandparent Program is wrapping up their grant year as the school year is ending. Year-end surveys were mailed out for teachers to complete, measuring the progress that the children assigned a Foster Grandparent volunteer have made on their personal and academic goals as well as whether or not the child will progress to the next grade level. These reviews allow us to portray the importance of the Foster Grandparent Program to our federal Funder, The Corporation for National and Community Service, as well as the community.

Senior Companion Program *Ann Whisenhunt:* Ann has reported a big shift in the Senior Companion Program, as many volunteers are aging out of the program. Senior Companion Program is recruiting heavily in Transylvania County for volunteers. Ann reported that both the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs have submitted their Grant Renewals.

Ann reported that the last 2 months have been extremely busy with celebrating Mayor's Day and National Volunteer week in April. She also recognized that this week, May 15 – 19th, is National Senior Corps week.

Education Outreach and Legislative Updates *Stacy Friesland:* The Corporation for National and Community Service received a cut of 65 million to the Social Innovation Fund and the National Trust Fund during the Continuing Resolution. However, no cuts were made to Senior Corps Programs (Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program or Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) or AmeriCorps and VISTA Programs.

The President's FY18 budget proposal does still include the elimination of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which funds both the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. Education Outreach about our Programs are still as important as ever. Ann issued invitations to Senator Burr and Tillis, Rep. Meadows and McHenry (or staff representative) to visit during a Senior Corps April In-Service Training. We prepared success stories from participants from FGP, SCP and SCSEP. None of the Congressmen or their staff were able to attend but we will continue to invite them. The Black Mountain News ran a great article about our Senior Companion, Foster Grandparent and Senior Community Services Employment Programs.

501(c)(3) Update *LeeAnne Tucker:* LeeAnne met with a consultant regarding the 501(c)(3). The consultant suggested we form a non-profit on just our Aging Programs, such as "Friends of Aging" as opposed to including the whole agency. If all of Land of Sky was included under the nonprofit arm, then others could go before the Board and request funding, even if the Aging Programs were the ones to raise the money. LeeAnne got a second opinion with another consultant that advised the same. Both consultants felt that the "Friends of Aging" could be a trial for all of Land of Sky Regional Council and we could add to it in the future. Both consultants would be willing to help us move forward with filing the 501©(3) for approximately \$500 plus filing fees; the total cost would be approximately \$1000. LeeAnne stated that there are funds in Aging to cover the cost. LeeAnne asked for a motion of support the 501©(3). Motion made by Woodie Dyches, seconded by Betty Barrier. LeeAnne will take to the Aging Advisory Board for their approval.

The timeline for the 501©(3): LeeAnne will present to the Aging Advisory Council in July, then take to Land of Sky Regional Council Executive Director, Justin Hembree, for his approval. Consultants felt it would take about six months to file 501©(3). The goal would be to have the 501©(3) by Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Fundraiser Updates and Planning *Ann Whisenhunt*

Tourist Ticket Sales: The Asheville Tourist ticket sales have gone great. We started with 200 vouchers and as of today, we have sold 94, raising \$329 for our Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs. Once we sell 100 tickets we can request more. We have been given permission to sell the tickets at our Land of Sky Regional Council open house in July.

Mini golf tournament: The event will be at the Play Station in Weaverville. They will give us the entire facility, discounts on putt-putt fees, and they will give prizes for hole-in-ones. The date will be September 21 from 10-1, which will be during Active Aging Week. Goal will be to get a Title Sponsor, Sponsors for Holes, and a Food Sponsor and have people sign up for teams of

four. Members discussed prices of sponsorship, individual and team fees, inviting our Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers, and possible businesses sponsorship.

Updates from the Community *All*:

LeeAnne announced the World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on June 15, 2017 from 5:30pm-7:30pm with opening remarks at 6pm by Sheriff Duncan.

The meeting was adjourned by Gaylyn.

Our next meeting will be on July 20, 2017 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at Land of Sky Regional Council.

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Friesland.