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## **GREEN RIVER AREA COUNCIL ON AGING**

November 1, 2016

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Area Council on Aging met on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) office. The following persons were in attendance:

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Daviess	Susan Howard, Mattie Jones, Nora Bilbro-Richie, Jennifer Hamilton (rep. by Michael Howerton)
Hancock	Diann Crask, Franklin Powers, Jean Mattingly
Henderson	Charlye Jo Griggs, Connie O'Leary, Suzanne Cravens
McLean	Jim Toler, Leona Austin
Ohio	Cluster Belcher, Wilda Hardesty, Mary Young
Union	Larry Strehle, Cathy Strehle, Linda Carter
Webster	Tonia Morrow, Carolyn Townsend

### COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Daviess	Melinda Cornell
Hancock	All Present
Henderson	All Present
McLean	Nancy Wetzel*
Ohio	All Present
Union	All Present
Webster	All Present

### GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Dana Peveler, Munday Activity Center (MAC)  
Heather McGarvey, MAC  
Wanda Blackwell, Webster County Senior Services

\*Excused Absence

Jack McCaslin, *Chairman* ■ Steve Austin, *Vice Chairman* ■ Kelly Thurman, *Secretary* ■ David Johnston, *Treasurer* ■ Jiten Shah, *Executive Director*

SISTER REGION:

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GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT (cont.)

Melissa Polites, Union County Senior Services  
Linda Brown, The Gathering Place  
Brenda Renfrow, Ohio County Senior Services  
Judele Stone, Ohio County Senior Services  
Scott Settle, McLean County Senior Services  
Susan Montalvo Gesser, Kentucky Legal Aid  
David Farley, Kentucky Legal Aid  
Jennifer Williams, Associate Director for Social Services, GRADD  
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD  
Janet Clancy, In-Home Services Manager, GRADD  
Sheila Howard, District Ombudsman, GRADD  
Jeanette Woodward, Social Assistance Mgmt. System (SAMS) Admin., GRADD  
Leslie Wilson, Community Services Manager, GRADD  
Liberty Watson, Support Services Technician, GRADD  
Sarah Ackerman, National Council on Aging (NCOA) Coordinator, GRADD  
Bill Kelley, Assistant Ombudsman, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Susan Howard called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the late Melvin Smith, long time council member. Vice Chairperson Cluster Belcher led the council in prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the August 2, 2016, Meeting

Secretary Franklin Powers presented the minutes of the August 2, 2016, meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging for approval.

A motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by Connie O’Leary to approve the August 2, 2016, minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Program Reports

1. Approval of Ombudsman Advisory Council Minutes

Scott Settle presented the minutes of the September 6, 2016, Ombudsman Advisory Council.

A motion was made by Scott Settle and seconded by Diann Crask to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016, Ombudsman Advisory Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

2. Approval of Ombudsman Advisory Council Bylaws

This item of business was tabled for the December 6 meeting.

3. Henderson County

Linda Brown reported that the flooring and painting at the Gathering Place have been completed. The center is now working on becoming a storm shelter. With a generator already in place, a board member has donated a washer and dryer, and another board member is making a monetary donation for the installation of showers. The next items to be secured for sheltering purposes are cots. Upcoming trips include a day trip to Draffinville in December to enjoy the Kentucky Opry Christmas Show. Trips for 2017 are planned for: February – Western Caribbean; April, Orlando; June, Niagara Falls; and September, Myrtle Beach. Lastly, Ms. Brown stated a flu clinic was held by Rite Aid.

4. Munday Activity Center (MAC)

Heather McGarvey reported the Annual Dinner was a success, raising more funds than any previous year. Several flu clinics have been held. Seniors and staff enjoyed a Halloween party at MAC. MAC will partner with Home Instead for “Be a Santa to a Senior.” The city has updated the MAC sign on Second Street. Susan Howard did a ride-along on a Daviess County meal route. Ms. Howard commented that she enjoyed the opportunity to ride on a meal route and encourages council members to coordinate a ride-along in their county.

5. Union County

Melissa Polites said they stay busy during open enrollment. Several seniors came to Owensboro for a cruise on the Belle of Cincinnati and had a wonderful time. The center will be promoting a Christmas Challenge in order to provide something special to home-bound clients. The center will partner with a local Girl Scout troop to provide blankets to residents in long term care facilities.

6. Webster County

Wanda Blackwell reported that Webster County also held a flu clinic. The Lion’s Club provided eye screenings. A local church will be providing meals the day after Thanksgiving. Holiday plans are underway including makeovers and photo sessions. Seniors will have the opportunity to use the photos as gifts for family and friends.

Assistance Program (SHIP), GRADD, as well as county coordinators, can help with plan comparisons. The comparisons are non-biased and will narrow down the options to the top three plans that best fit a client's individual needs. Extra Help or Low-income Subsidy (LIS) from the Social Security Administration is available to persons who fall within the income guidelines and can off-set the monthly premiums of a prescription drug plan. Ms. Wilson provided a handout with tips to consider during the open enrollment period. Lastly, Ms. Wilson advised the council that scams are also prevalent during open enrollment. Seniors should be cautious, as always, with their personal information.

D. Report on Senior Day Out

Sheila Howard reported Senior Day Out at Towne Square Mall was held September 22, 2016. Sign-in sheets from the event recorded 530 seniors in attendance, and 61 vendors. Post surveys were given to both seniors and vendors and reflected a positive experience by both.

E. Report on Benefits Enrollment Event

Leslie Wilson reported on the Benefits Enrollment Event which was held in conjunction with Senior Day Out. This event used the Benefits CheckUp screening tool to identify programs/benefits for which individuals are eligible. The event brought together agencies who could assist clients in applying for the benefits identified by the screening. The event was successful with 103 individuals screened.

F. Report on Senior Celebration

Leslie Wilson reported that Senior Celebration is sponsored annually by the Committee of Concerned Caregivers in partnership with local agencies. This year's celebration was held at Owensboro Christian Church and was well attended.

G. Veterans Services Update

Jennifer Williams reviewed the Veterans Directed Care services provided by GRADD. Through this program, the Veterans Administration provides a budget to qualifying veterans from which the veteran can pay for in-home care needs. GRADD staff provides case management services for the veterans in the program. GRADD acts as a sub-provider of the service under the Pennyrile ADD. After completing a readiness review, GRADD has determined that remaining a sub-provider is most cost effective at this time. Ms. Williams stated that should the client base continue to grow, the option of becoming a direct provider will be re-examined.

Ms. Williams also updated the council on the status of the Cover to Cover program. Through this program, the VA would train someone to be knowledgeable of all benefits available to veterans and to assist veterans in accessing those benefits. Currently, various VA benefits operate in individual silos. These silos operate independently of one another and cannot identify other benefits available or connect veterans to the other silos. The Cover to Cover program would help veterans navigate the existing silo system. Ms. Williams

stated, that at the last meeting a projected start date for the program was October 1; now, the projected start is January, when a new funding cycle for the VA begins.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Contracts

Lisa Flahardy provided year to date reports for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Overall, services provided expended 100 percent of budget or near 100 percent. Ms. Flahardy stated Title III D, Disease Prevention/Health Promotion, fell short in expenditures, as reflected by the report. Time was needed for county coordinators to complete certification for the programs resulting in these services not beginning until late in the fiscal year. Ms. Flahardy expects that 100 percent of the budget for Title III D will be expended for FY 2017.

#### B. New NCOA Coordinator

Leslie Wilson introduced Sarah Ackerman, NCOA Coordinator. Ms. Ackerman is a social work student at Brescia University and has served as an intern with GRADD in the past.

#### C. Westat Survey

Jeanette Woodward informed the council that it is time again for the annual Westat surveys. Westat is a survey group contracted by the Administration for Community Living. Agencies are randomly selected, and then the agency's clients are randomly selected to participate in the survey. The clients are those receiving Title III services which are federally funded, such as senior center services, home-delivered meals, or caregiver services. Ms. Woodward stated Westat will never ask for a social security number, birthdate, or other personal information. GRADD does not receive the results, instead the results will be available on a website for those interested; however, they are general results for the entire state.

### IV. Emergency Meals

Leslie Wilson stated the first round of emergency meals have been delivered to the home-delivered meal clients. Each client receives a box containing shelf stable meals to use when there are snow days. When county schools are closed for inclement weather, congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals are also closed. Depending on the weather, other orders of emergency meals may be necessary.

### V. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chairperson Howard stated a nominating committee is needed to recommend a vice-chairperson, and secretary for the upcoming year. Ms. Howard asked a representative from each county to serve on the nominating committee as follows:

- Melinda Cornell – Daviess
- Diann Crask – Hancock
- Charlye Jo Griggs – Henderson
- Nancy Wetzel – McLean
- Wilda Hardesty – Ohio
- Linda Carter – Union
- Tonia Marrow – Webster

A motion was made by Carolyn Townsend and seconded by Connie O’Leary to accept the above-named council members to serve on a nominating committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting is December 6, 2016.
- PEARLS Expansion Committee Meeting – December 6, 2016.
- County Coordinator Meeting – November 10, 2016.
- Mental Health & Aging Coalition – November 17, 2016.
- Ombudsman Advisory Council – November 29, 2016, at Hancock County Senior Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

/lw