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GREEN RIVER AREA COUNCIL ON AGING

August 2, 2016

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

The Green River Area Council on Aging met on Tuesday, August 2, 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, Jennifer Hamilton, Melinda Cornell
Hancock	Diann Crask, Franklin Powers, Jean Mattingly
Henderson	Charlye Jo Griggs, Connie O'Leary, Suzanne Cravens
McLean	Jim Toler, Nancy Wetzel
Ohio	Cluster Belcher, Wilda Hardesty, Mary Young
Union	Larry Strehle, Cathy Strehle
Webster	Tonia Morrow

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Daviess	Mattie Jones*, Melvin Smith, Mary Robertson, Nora Bilbro-Richie*
Hancock	All Present
Henderson	Sandy Blue*
McLean	Leona Austin
Ohio	J.T. Boling
Union	Linda Carter*
Webster	Carolyn Townsend*

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Joan Duncan, AT&T
Lona Kratzer, Hancock County Senior Services
Dana Peveler, Munday Activity Center MAC)

*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.)

Heather McGarvey, MAC
Wanda Blackwell, Webster County Senior Services
Melissa Polites, Union County Senior Services
Linda Brown, The Gathering Place
Brenda Renfrow, Ohio County Senior Services
Scott Settle, McLean County Senior Services
Daniel Miller, McLean County Senior Services
Vivian McNatton, Associate Director for Social Services, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Jennifer Williams, In-Home Services Manager, GRADD
Kelli King, Family Caregiver Coordinator, GRADD
Sheila Howard, District Ombudsman, GRADD
Rita Gazell, Data Services Coordinator, GRADD
Nancy Williams, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Coordinator, GRADD
Ken Lawson, National Council on Aging (NCOA) Outreach Specialist, GRADD
Liberty Watson, Support Services Technician, 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. Vice Chairperson Cluster Belcher led the council in prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the June 7, 2016, Meeting

Secretary Franklin Powers presented the minutes of the June 7, 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 June 7, 2016, minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Program Reports

1. Henderson County

Linda Brown reported that renovations at the Gathering Place continue. Painting has been completed and new flooring is expected to be complete by September. Henderson seniors enjoyed a trip to New Harmony, Indiana.

2. Hancock County

Lona Kratzer reported a successful partnership with MAC in the evidence-based chronic disease self-management class: 16 seniors from Hancock County and two from Daviess County participated in the initial 12-week course. The second course is currently underway in Daviess County with four seniors from Hancock County participating. Seniors have the opportunity to participate in a research project with Western Kentucky University which utilizes Bingocize. A trip was taken with the McLean County seniors to Montgomery, Indiana (Amish country). Seniors continue to enjoy monthly trips to Rough River State Park for buffet and bingo.

3. Munday Activity Center (MAC)

Dana Peveler reported a new phone system has been installed at MAC, as well as new carpet on the first floor. The center now offers Zumba and Zumba Gold classes. August 18, 2016, is the MAC Annual Dinner, beginning with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m. The annual fundraising event will be held at Immaculate Parish Hall in Owensboro.

4. Union County

Melissa Polites stated summer activities have been “low key” this year, with a bigger emphasis on Senior Day at the Fair. Approximately 100 seniors attended Senior Day at the Fair and enjoyed a bluegrass band, and bingo. Seniors have participated in monthly trips to Pennyrile State Park for bingo.

5. Webster County

Wanda Blackwell reported that Webster County seniors enjoyed a luau in June and an ice-cream social in July.

C. Guest Speaker

Joan Duncan with AT&T addressed the council concerning training opportunities on the use of digital devices for seniors. Ms. Duncan stated the goal of the trainings, “Digital You,” is to bridge the digital divide and to keep seniors connected and involved in their communities. The trainings are held in local senior centers. Experts from AT&T stores come to the center and help seniors learn how to accomplish various tasks with their digital devices (smart phones, tablets, etc.). Seniors who participate have an increased confidence when using digital devices and gain new ways to stay connected with family and friends.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS)
Expansion Committee Report

The committee began their meeting with discussion on updates since the June meeting. Jim Toler stated one issue brought up is that some seniors who complete the program

are reluctant to leave the program. A response to this issue has been that counselors are using space in the MAC to meet with clients and help them become active at the senior center. Transportation is being provided for these clients. Another issue discussed is clients are often prescribed medication by the service provider when they begin the program; however, the challenge is to continue the medication once they leaves the program. Referral to the client's general practitioner may resolve this issue, or possibly continued access to the program physician. More professionals are needed to provide services. The committee continues to explore grant funding opportunities which would help pay for training required for the program administration. Jeannette Woodward informed the council that the April minutes should be corrected to read \$95.00 per person for training, rather than \$9,500.00, as stated.

A motion was made by Melinda Cornell and seconded by Jennifer Hamilton to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016, minutes of the PEARLS Expansion Committee, as amended. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Melinda Cornell and seconded by Wilda Hardesty to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016, meeting of the PEARLS Expansion Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Donations Committee Report

The Donations Committee met at 9:00 a.m. Cluster Belcher reported the county coordinators had conducted a survey with senior center clients about the possibility of increasing the suggested donation for meals. The survey produced mixed results. After evaluating the surveys and hearing from the county coordinators, the committee recommends keeping the suggested donation at \$1.50. The committee feels it would be a good idea to review the suggested donation on a regular basis, perhaps with each new area plan.

A motion was made by Cluster Belcher and seconded by Nancy Wetzel to keep the suggested donation for meals at \$1.50. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Jean Mattingly and seconded by Connie O'Leary to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016, Donations Committee minutes. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. FY '17 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Funding

Leslie Wilson provided updates on the SHIP program. Currently, in addition to Ms. Wilson, GRADD employees two part staff that work under the program. SHIP provides various education and counseling to anyone needing prescription assistance, with a target audience of persons age 65 and over. SHIP counselors help Medicare beneficiaries with their Part D comparisons. Other area counselors assist in, or provide information on: Medigap; supplemental insurance; long-term care insurance; finding prescription assistance; providing

information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps; low-income subsidy; as well as other areas. Ms. Wilson stated the Kentucky House of Representative included \$5.2 million in their budget for SHIP. Currently, GRADD receives \$45,000 annually to administer the SHIP program. SHIP counselors are available in all seven GRADD counties. SHIP brochures were made available, and Ms. Wilson asked everyone to spread the word that SHIP counselors are available to help people with a variety of insurance needs.

D. Suspension of Kentucky Family Caregiver Program

The Kentucky Family Caregiver Program has been suspended for FY '17 in order to make up for budget cuts sustained by the Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living. The budget will be revisited next year and, if funds are available, the program will be reinstated. The program served approximately 120 grandchildren in the GRADD region last year. Clients are now being referred to local churches and other agencies. Recent statistics show there are 36,000 grandparents raising grandchildren in Kentucky. The National Family Caregiver Program does have limited funds available for grandparents raising grandchildren.

E. National Council on Aging (NCOA) "One Stop Shop" Event

Ken Lawson provided information on an upcoming event to take place in conjunction with Senior Day Out. The event will provide the opportunity for persons to complete the Benefits CheckUp Tool and to then immediately sign up for benefits for which they qualify. Providers of the various benefits will be onsite to assist people in applying for benefits. The event will take place September 22, 2016, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at Towne Square Mall in the former Hallmark location.

F. Cover to Cover

Vivian McNatton informed the council that by the next meeting a new program will have begun called Cover to Cover. It is a program to help veterans discover and navigate all the benefits available to them. A handout was provide containing information about the veteran population in the GRADD area. The program is being made available through a contract with the University of Utah.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eldercare Locator was made available to council members.
- Kentucky State of Aging 2015 Report of the Institute for Aging was also provided to council members.
- TRIAD/Elder Abuse Justice Coalition meeting is September 6, 2016, 10:00 a.m., in McLean County.
- The next meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging is scheduled for October 4, 2016.

- Senior Day Out at Towne Square Mall will be September 22, 2016.
- NCOA “One Stop Shop” event, September 22, 2016.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

/lw