

Saline County Aging Services Board Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2015
Saline County Extension Office, Crete hosting

Co-Chairman Carla Hubbard called the meeting to order in Marty Stones' absence. Roll call showed 9 members present, constituting a quorum. Also present were Denise Boyd and Trudy Kubicek, Aging Partners; Stephanie Krivohlavek, Saline County Commissioner; and Leonard Sand, guest.

Bev Plihal moved and Kathryn Bolton seconded the motion, that the January, 27, 2015, minutes be approved as dispersed. Motion carried.

March birthdays and anniversaries were remembered.

The minutes were recorded digitally.

The County Extension meeting room is saved for our volunteer luncheon on April 27.

OLD BUSINESS

Carla reported on their meeting with the County Commissioners. She, Marty Stones, Jackie Francis, and Amy Hansen met with the commissions to receive clarification of the roles of the board, the county and Aging Partners. She reported they went through SCAS's bylaws and that

- insurance for SCAS staff be funded through Aging Partners.

- SCAS board would make recommendations and performance appraisals for staff members.

- SCAS board would recommend salary adjustments and COLA's for the staff.

- SCAS board would recommend positions. The commissioners suggested advertising for staff positions.

- SCAS board would fill vacancies for their board with commissioners' approval. The commissioners would like any new vacancies filled by next fiscal year.

- SCAS budgets would need final approval by the County Commissioners. The budget is due by April 1 to Aging Partners. The county wants it prior to April 15th. Then the state needs it by July 15th.

- SCAS would provide budget reports to the commissioners. Aging Partners gives a report annually.

Carla also reported that

- the reason the SCAS's roof has not yet been repaired is because the bids were extremely varied and all are not in yet.

- Bruce Filipi will help choose a used van for SCAS to purchase this spring.

- Amy is not an appointed employee. She is a department head. Her job ceases if there is no funding for her position. She is allowed to work from home.

- the County Commissioners do not want to govern SCAS.

--Marty was thinking of changing the frequency of the meetings, having the executive committee meet more often and the regular board less often.

After the meeting, Marvin Kohout stated that they were adjusting to the SCAS staff being county employees. The commissioners and Tad Eickman will be looking into the insurance issue for the staff. Carla felt it was a good meeting.

There are three Community Representative openings on the SCAS board, one each from Crete, Swanton, and Wilber. Lorene Horky agreed to move from 'Community Representative at Large' to 'Community Representative'.

The bylaws state that we can have nine 'Community Representatives at Large' members. We have two. Kathy Stokebrand suggested filling the community reps first. She suggested using the list from the minutes: Mary Keller and Mary Krull from Wilber; MaryAnn Pesek, Pat Schwisow, and Barb Vales from Swanton.

Leonard Sand is willing to be on the board; he said his wife declined. He will write up a short biography for the commissioners.

Bev Plihal said that Elaine Erdmann is coming back and will be staying at the Villa in Beatrice for a while before she moves home. So she may soon be able to come to the meetings again.

The SCAS budget committee will be meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Carla reported that Marty was considering a possible new meeting format, with the regular board meeting quarterly and the executive board meeting monthly.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORT

Laura Mackeprang, Program Assistant, reported that Amy got through surgery just fine and is now recuperating from home.

Laura also reported that she has started doing Homestead Exemptions in the office. Homestead Exemption runs from February 1 through June. It is a way for those 65 years and/or disabled to get tax relief on their homes.

There is a new exemption for those who are 'developmentally disabled', but the County Assessor's office was not told how that is defined.

Laura was also told that everyone must fill out a certification of disability this year, even if they are on file as being disabled.

They are to fill out the top part of the form, sign at the bottom, and, if they are a Veteran, have the VA sign it; if they believe they have a developmental disability, then DHHS needs to sign it; all other physical disabilities need to be signed by their doctor. Then those entities (the VA, DHHS, the doctor) will need to mail it to the County Assessor's office. The Assessor's office will NOT accept the Certification of Disability from anyone else.

Homestead Exemption is a program for those 65 years of age as of January 1, or those disabled, to receive an exemption of 10-100% off the taxes on their home. Income and the value of the homestead are the qualifying factors. It is necessary to file an application every year to get the exemption.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DeWitt Senior Center

The center's March calendar is out. The Wednesdays' programs will be on antiques, about the presidents' wives, a St. Patrick's Day celebration, and a travelogue on Australia. They will have a Spring Fling featuring a Baked Potato Feed in the evening on Friday, March 20th, with Richard Schmit from Western entertaining.

The center is also meeting once a month at the Quik Shop in the a.m. In February they had breakfast pizza. They will meet March 30th for cinnamon rolls. In the summer they have ice cream or root beer floats.

Bev will be working on the Center's budget.

Areawide Council Report

Kathy Stokebrand reported she is still waiting to attend the next meeting, which will be February 26, 2015. She said that the agenda includes monitoring visits, Medicare patrol, ombudsman activities, Aging Partner's 5 year plan, legislative updates, the official direct service waiver, and the launching of Aging Partner's newly revised website.

She said Marty will not be able to attend as planned, but he is still interested in getting involved.

AARP

Trudy Kubicek heard Mark Intermill report on the legislative bills that AARP is watching. She went over some of the bills of interest:

--LB320--Aging and Disability Resource Center Act. The spending on this has been the same for the past 12 years. Nebraska is ranked 51st in the nation on this, so there is a need to beef up services to meet demands. It is for all ages and the staff helps with applications for

services and benefits. This keeps the cost of care down so people can stay in their home longer. They are working with the Caregivers Coalition, who wants an outlet to get more information.

--LB470—Caregiver Tax Credit Bill. This is like the Federal Child Care Credit. It will be helpful to use credits for respite for caregivers--to get a break from care giving.

--LB50—This bill would eliminate optional Medicaid services. AARP is strongly opposing this bill. It would eliminate help with prescription drugs and the Medicaid Waiver program, and take away some personal care aides.

AARP is going to use the opportunity to educate the legislators on how these programs can help stabilize a client at home and keep them at home longer and for a lot less expense than going to a nursing home.

--LB405—Alzheimers Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Workgroup. Nebraska is one of the few states that has no plan in place. They will look at the cost of facilities, increasing staff level, and caregiver support.

--LB493—Healthy & Safe Family & Workplace. This will address caregivers' concerns about getting parents and children to medical appointments.

--LB472—Medicaid Redesign Act. Two professors from the University of Kearney are looking at the economic side of Medicaid expansion and what it would do.

Trudy also reported that Mark did not talk about LR400—AccessNE. She said that this is a special investigative committee with a 140 page report on the Medicaid issues. Trudy's supervisor, Joyce Kubicek, testified on it.

There are still Medicaid issues, the latest problem being verification letters that were lost in the mail.

SCAT

Carol Fictum reported that Saline County Area Transit will have a Soup Luncheon on Saturday, March 7, from 11 AM-1 PM, at the Western Legion building. They will serve soup, sandwiches, and dessert for a free will donation.

Other

A round of applause was given to Trudy Kubicek for generously hosting the meeting.

Bev Plihal said she saw the Friendly Visitors article in the paper. She would like the forms for clients and volunteers as she has had people ask her about it. Laura will send the forms to Bev.

A signup sheet to bring salad or dessert for the volunteer luncheon was passed out. Laura said she would bring it to the meeting next month, too, for those who weren't sure what they wanted to bring.

The County Extension office was reserved for April's volunteer luncheon. The Extension office will reserve meeting room only one month in advance. Those hosting board meetings

can make arrangements with the extension office to reserve the room. If they want Laura to do it, they need to let her know. Laura will call in April to reserve the room for May's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Bonnie Schoenbeck moved to adjourn the meeting. Next meeting will be March 23, 2015, at 2 p.m. at the DeWitt Senior Center with Dewitt hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Mackeprang, Program Assistant
Saline County Aging Services

ACTION LIST

- Marty will schedule an Executive Board Meeting to discuss bylaws.
- Budget committee needs to meet.
- Laura to reserve the Extension Office for the May meeting.