

Committee on Aging Minutes December 8, 2017

Committee Members participating in person: Delores Rath, Bruce Davidson, Elaine Keepseagle, Ed Christ

Committee Members participating via telephone: Deborah Melby, Madonna White Bear Azure, Mary Ann McCowan, and Merry Green

Ex-Officio participating in person: Shelley Haugen, Governor's Office and Nancy Nikolas-Maier, Aging Services Division

Presenters: Josh Askvig, AARP and Deb Nelson, Vision West ND Consortium Administrator and President, DLN Consulting

Others participating in person: Sheryl Pfliger, Aging Services Division; Katie Schafer, West Central Human Service Center; Heather Steffl, Department of Human Services

Others participating via telephone: Bill Lytle, South Central Human Service Center and Rene Schmidt, Badlands Human Service Center

Call to Order/Welcome/Approval of Minutes: The meeting was called to order by Delores Rath, Vice-Chairperson. Motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Bruce Davidson; seconded by Elaine Keepseagle. Sheryl Pfliger reported that Ruth Boyer had resigned from the Committee; the vacancy in Region VIII has not yet been filled.

Committee Members Updates:

Governor's Office: Shelley Haugen indicated that in response to a question regarding recognition of a Committee member's service by the Governor's Office upon resignation, the current process of recognition by the Chair and other committee members of the Committee on Aging should continue.

Williston Region: Deb Melby reported that Home Helpers Home Care is now operating.

Ft. Berthold: Madonna White Bear Azure had nothing specific for her region; however, she continues to assist Dr. Burd (Spirit Lake) with the Native American Caregiver Training.

Minot Region: Merry Green reported that a Regional Council on Aging meeting will be held next week – so far 90 individuals have made reservations to participate. Agenda will include presentations on the prescription drug take back, LIHEAP, and Senior Medicare Patrol. She along with six volunteers assisted with open enrollment. Merry reported that she will be retiring from her position with Minot Commission on Aging, but plans to continue to serve on the Committee on Aging.

Grand Forks Region: Ed Christ reported that the senior center continues to provide a number of activities including diabetes prevention, programs to improve balance, and

self-defense classes; fund raising continues to be an ongoing concern as monies are needed to offset unpaid meals and foot care services.

Fargo Region: Bruce Davidson has been working with long-term care facilities reviewing resident's rights with respect to the Ombudsman Final Rule.

Jamestown Region: Delores Rath reported that she, along with the Regional Aging Services Program Administrator (RASPA) plan to conduct more regional workshops in 2018. Bill Lytle, RASPA, reported that Central Valley District Health Unit is exploring the provision of additional health maintenance services in Sargent County; expanded services would have to be provided within the existing funding.

Standing Rock: Elaine Keepseagle reported that she continues to assist elders in obtaining needed equipment as well as getting them to appointments. She will be assisting part time with the nutrition program in Ft. Yates.

Bismarck Region: Katie Schafer, RASPA, reported that there is a new congregate meal site at Edgewood in Mandan – participation has been good. Maintaining cooks has been an issue – Flasher site was closed for a number of weeks. Efforts continue in looking for creative ways to provide meals.

Dickinson Region: Rene Schmidt, RASPA, provided an update on nutrition services in the region - inability to secure cooks for meal sites has been a major issue. New Leipzig will prepare and transport meals for Mott/Regent on a trial basis. Killdeer is also catering meals to Dunn Center. Scranton/Reeder had been transporting meals to Hettinger. Beach is using the Café 60 model as the senior center closed. Rhame did not have meals for extended period, but they are now 'up and running' again.

Regarding nutrition services, Nancy Nikolas Maier shared information from a national nutrition call indicating a number of states are experiencing the same issues. Many sites are using vouchers to continue meal service. The senior center in Sioux Falls, SD hired a professional chef – meal numbers have increased.

Presentation: The Latest on Health Care and Social Security - Josh Askvig, AARP
Josh provided a power point overview of his presentation addressing Social Security, the healthcare landscape, and ND caregiving work as well as handouts on the 2018 Social Security Changes, Social Security Trust Fund Reserves, data on the number of beneficiaries, Long-Term Services and Supports Scorecard, and ND Caregiving. Discussion was held on all topics. Josh encouraged committee members to discuss "What should the future of aging in ND look like?" Several initial responses included the need to have conversations with older individuals to ask them what they want, exploring how technology can assist caregivers in their homes, and the need to build a workforce to provide home and community-based care.

Aging Services Division Report: Nancy Nikolas Maier, Aging Services Division
Nancy reported that a continuing resolution had been passed extending the Federal budget until December 22, thus avoiding a government shutdown for the short term.

Updates on the settings rule, changes in basic care rules, and the Lifespan Respite Grant were provided.

Aging Services Division has been working with a vendor to add a caregiver section to the ADRL website/database as required in HB 1038. Through the Lifespan Respite Grant the site will also continue to be upgraded. Information and Assistance staff will be AIRS certified.

The number of vulnerable adult protective services referrals continues to increase. Mandatory reporting and the continued education provided through the Later in Life grant may be part of the reason for the increase. Cases are more complex with increased addiction and mental health issues noted. Nancy shared that the Administration for Community Living is interested in what is happening in the state regarding older adults and the opioid issue.

Presentation: Impacts of the Oil Boom on Older Adults - Deb Nelson, Administrator
Deb provided information on Vision West ND, a consortium whose purpose is to develop a regional plan for sustainability addressing infrastructure (including roads/traffic/recreation), public safety, affordable housing, and health services. The consortium is represented by counties, cities, regional planning councils, higher education, chambers, economic development councils, industry businesses, health organizations, and individuals from the 17 energy producing counties plus Adams and Hettinger counties. The consortium has pledged to help plan solutions to the issues they face. She indicated the need to have someone on the consortium representing the aging population. Deb provided information on impacts at the height of the oil boom, since that time, where we are today, and predictions for the future. She will share her power point with committee members.

Other Business – Call to the Public: Nothing additional was noted.

Meeting Dates for 2018: Committee meetings will be held at Edgewood Vista at Edgewood Village from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a call-in option on the following dates:
Friday, March 9, 2018
Friday, June 8, 2018
Friday, September 14, 2018
Friday, December 14, 2018

Adjournment: Delores requested that Gene Hysjulien's challenge to the Committee be resent with the minutes. Committee members should come prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Forums on Aging were discussed, with Josh Askvig indicating AARP could be a part of the discussion as they have trainings set and that Committee trainings/forums could maybe 'piggyback' on their trainings.

Bruce moved for adjournment; seconded by Ed; meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Pfliger