

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 and called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Dr. Kenneth Blair; Barbara Coats; Patricia Koko; Mary Marling; Sandra Rowe ; Lydia Manning; Ade Onayemi, Trustee Liaison

Absent Oak Park Committee: None

Present River Forest Committee: Carol Cox; Mary Therese Small

Absent River Forest: Dr. Katherine Walsh; James Flanagan; Linda Ryan; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor

Also Present: Desiree Scully-Simpkins, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Pamela Mahn, Administrative Associate for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Boulanger introduced the new Oak Park Town Board Trustee Liaison, Ade Onayemi and new Committee member Lydia Manning. He thanked the committee members for their service and stated that the Town Boards are interested in how Senior Services can do a better job in dealing with the needs of seniors in our communities. Brief introductions were made to the group by all members.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 20, 2013 meeting. Patricia Koko moved to approve the minutes. Sandra Rowe seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Onayemi reported the following:

- The next meeting of the Town Board will focus on reviewing the tentative budgets as presented by all departments.
- A draft of a sustainability policy is being reviewed by the Town Board at the next meeting. The overall goal of the policy is improving community wellness. When completed an electronic draft will be sent to Director Scully-Simpkins who will forward it to the members of the committee.

RFT LIAISON’S REPORT

Supervisor Sloan was absent from the meeting. No report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Director’s reports were included in the committee packets mailed to members. The committee discussed the reports. Director Scully-Simpkins reported the following:

- The Township has begun the bid process for a new bus to replace OAK-7.
- There are still many changes happening in the case management area. We are part of the Coordinated Care Alliance and will work in that arena if the Township receives a business plan and decides to pursue that partnership and if the Alliance gets any coordinated care contracts. The Township has paid \$3,500 to join the Alliance and additional funding will be necessary for development of billing systems to handle the claims.

Currently the Medicaid only population is being served under the Managed Care Organization (MCO) network. If we get a referral for a participant in our area, we must first contact the State of Illinois to see if the participant belongs to an MCO. If the participant doesn’t belong to an MCO we can do the assessment as usual. If they do belong to an MCO, the MCO decides whether it is necessary for us to go out and whether they will pay us for the assessment. The MCO must provide care for their members, we cannot.

Oak Park Township recognizes the responsibility it has to provide service to the taxpayers in Oak Park and River Forest and will look at our role very carefully.

The hotline to verify MCO participation was shut down after the first two days due to such high demand and lack of resources to handle call volume and provide information accordingly.

- July 1, 2013 marks the beginning of the Adult Protective Services program where we will be investigating cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation for adults 18-59 years old in addition to the 60+ seniors who we currently serve.
- Effective October 1, 2013 Senior Services will change from being a designated Information & Assistance provider to being an Aging and Disability Resource Center. Tentatively there will be additional funding available and necessary trainings so we understand the resources for this new population.
- Senior Services has applied for special funding through the Community Mental Health Board, town of Oak Park, for funding to send case managers for training on service provision to those with mental health and developmental disabilities.

Mary Therese Small asked whether River Forest Township should receive a proposal to support the additional costs of participating in the coordinated care alliance.

Dr. Kenneth Blair congratulated the Senior Services staff on the remarks from the audit exit interview provided by Age Options.

June 19, 2013

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- Celebrating Seniors week was very successful this year.
- Patricia Koko attended 18 of the 50 events that were held throughout the week and reported that there was good attendance at the events.
- Tentatively there was more money raised this year than last year. These funds are used to help seniors in need of financial assistance during emergency situations.
- Letters will be sent to prior sixty over sixty nominees to pay it forward and nominate someone else they know.
- Patricia Koko thanked Director Scully-Simpkins and Senior Services for their participation and refreshments at Ribbon Fest.
- Chairperson Flanagan is in the process of trademarking the Celebrating Seniors information. Next year it will be licensed.
- Mary Marling attended the luncheon with the presentation of the “Spread” book published by the Stockyard Institute, compiled by Jim Duignan, telling the stories of seniors in the congregate dining program. She reported that the luncheon was very nice and there was a wonderful spirit in the room.
- Celebrating Seniors Week is scheduled for May 15-22, 2014.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Blair nominated the current slate for re-election, : James Flanagan for the position of Chairperson, Dr. Blair for the position of Vice Chairperson, and Mary Therese Small for the position of Secretary.

Pat Koko motioned to accept and elect the slate of nominations. Carol Cox seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the senior services conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.