



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

130 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

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CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Dr. Lydia Manning; Sandra Rowe; Mary Cozzens, Trustee Liaison.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Patricia Koko; Dr. Kenneth Blair; Mary Marling.

Present River Forest Committee: James Flanagan; Carol Cox; Chris Hauri; Jean Buckley; Sally Gibbs; Cathaleen Roach, River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator.

Absent River Forest: Dr. Katherine Walsh; 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, Assistant to the Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mary Cozzens introduced herself as the newly appointed trustee liaison for Oak Park Township and shared her background and history with Oak Park Township and Senior Services. Cathaleen Roach introduced herself as the newly hired River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator and shared her background in Oak Park and River Forest as well as with Senior Services. Mary McCabe introduced herself as a guest speaker bringing information to the committee regarding falls prevention and shared her background in the community. Brief introductions were made by the group.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting. Carol Cox moved to approve the minutes. Chris Hauri seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

None.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Cozzens reported the following:

- The Town Board is working toward collaboration on a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services for funding to provide research and treatment practice ideas with the focus of alcohol use among teens in Oak Park and River Forest. There are many community stakeholders involved who must be committed to the project. The Town Board feels this program is worth the effort and would be fruitful and helpful to address the problem.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Senior Services Adult Protective Services Team received a 95% on their annual case audit and was commended by the auditor stating that the client case files could be used for best practice examples in completion of the case notes and paperwork.
- Senior Services received a memo from the Illinois Department on Aging stating that Case Coordination Units are forbidden from providing case management services to participants receiving service under a Managed Care Organization. As a result, our contract for case management services to MCO participants covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield will terminate July 31, 2015. There is some provision stating that the CCU may play a role in assisting to locate difficult to reach participants, but the details are not clear at this point.

The addition of MCO's has generated a great level of work for the case management team. Passive enrollment guidelines require us to complete paperwork and setup for participants, but once the participant is assigned an MCO case worker there is no shared information or care plans to ensure timely, effective care for participants. This change in framework has caused confusion among participants and has required the case management team to spend much more time in house on documentation and verification of participation rather than in the field advocating for their participants. The seniors in our communities depend on these social services to maintain the level of care that they've been receiving in the past. Now that our case management team is not part of the care planning process, it is very difficult to manage their needs. The Town Board has expressed their commitment to allowing Senior Services to continue in our efforts to advocate on behalf of all residents as needed.

- One of the innovations for our nutrition programming may include the expansion of meals in River Forest. Current discussion includes River Forest Community Center as a nutrition site in a once per month format where a rotation of local restaurants may provide the meals in conjunction with outreach and programming for the participants. The meal provided would fall under the same nutrition requirements as our other congregate and home delivered meals programs and would be considered special programming under the current congregate dining award.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- Celebrating Seniors events were covered in several viewpoints articles in the paper.
- Final revenue and proceeds for emergency funds numbers are not yet available.
- Programs during Celebrating Seniors Week saw good attendance, received positive comments & feedback, and provided much content for great media exposure.

June 17, 2015

- A thank you letter for Celebrating Seniors is to come in the newspaper.
- The wrap up event will be held tomorrow.
- Some efforts are already underway to work on projects for next year including additional fundraising opportunities.
- A Celebrating Seniors Toolkit is being created and will be presented at the March 2016 American Society on Aging conference. Chairperson Flanagan, Pat Koko, and Lydia Manning will be presenting.
- There may be a mid-year awareness and fundraiser event for stakeholders.
- Celebrating Seniors Week 2016 will be May 12 – 19th. Ribbon Fest will be held on May 5th, Calling All Collectors will be on May 13th, and Battle of the Bands will be on May 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Flanagan asked committee members to think about:

- upcoming projects they might like to see
- if they want to do more, varied projects

The Committee discussed ideas including an experience corps, volunteering opportunities, AARP Age Friendly Livable Communities, literacy and intergenerational connections and agreed to give some thought to additional ideas and bring information to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary McCabe presented information to the Committee on the State of Illinois National Falls Coalition and Falls Prevention. Materials printed from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention were handed out and discussed. National Falls Prevention Awareness Day is Wednesday, September 23, 2015. Mary noted that the White Crane Wellness Center has won the award to conduct the “A Matter of Balance” workshops which teach falls prevention strategies. The committee discussed various opportunities to increase awareness including reaching out to the senior buildings, distribution of the falls prevention awareness checklist to home delivered meal participants, bringing flyers and information to the senior coffee session at River Forest library, possible outreach event for the Celebrating Seniors Coalition, looking at other resources in the community, social media outlets and other ways to participate in the awareness effort. Director Scully-Simpkins agreed on the importance of awareness, emphasized Senior Services role in falls prevention programs in the past and Senior Services current work with White Crane Wellness Center.

The Center for Disability and Elder Law is creating a new partnership with Oak Park and River Forest Townships to complete advance directives for seniors in the area. The initiative will include providing outreach and information on the importance of having forms for Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Property and Living Wills. Later this year, there will be a pro bono attorney on site one to two afternoons per month at Senior Services to complete the paperwork for interested seniors.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Senior Services facility, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.