

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, September 18, 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; Dr. Lydia Manning

Absent Oak Park Committee: Ade Onayemi, Trustee Liaison

Present River Forest Committee: James Flanagan; Dr. Katherine Walsh; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor

Absent River Forest: Carol Cox; Mary Therese Small; Linda Ryan

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 19, 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 was absent from the meeting. No report.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Supervisor Sloan reported the following:

- Meetings of the River Forest Mental Health Committee have been moved to a different night of the week to accommodate the Township Supervisors attendance at both meetings.
- Supervisor Sloan will be attending Prime Timer group at St. Luke parish and Coffee Mondays at the River Forest library to talk about Township services, possible opportunities for collaboration and to get an idea about what services residents would like to see.

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 FY 15 grant application for Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township funding is due on October 1, 2013.
- On July 1, 2013, the Elder Abuse Investigation program was expanded to provide service to disabled residents age 18-59 in addition to residents 60 and over. The name of the program has changed to Adult Protective Services. There has been a fifty percent increase in cases to date. The cases for younger, disabled residents had been previously investigated by the Office of the Inspector General. Additional case managers have not been hired to handle the increased case load. Senior Services has been awarded special funding through the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township to assist in paying for the cost of training our case management team in working with younger residents with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse issues.
- 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. The MCO is not required to share care plan information with us. To date we have not been denied access to assess any existing MCO clients. Currently active MCO's include Aetna, Harmony and Illini Care.
- The Coordinated Care Alliance is close to signing a contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. There are contracts with other MCO's currently in place for other service areas many of which are down state.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- Celebrating Seniors Week is scheduled for May 15-22, 2014.
- Only one advertiser has not paid for their ad space in the Celebrating Seniors resource guide.
- One goal for the coming year is to attract more partners and better programs.
- Partners will be encouraged to budget line items for Celebrating Seniors expenses next May.
- Communities who participated this year for the first time seem committed to participating again next year.
- Tentative areas of participation for next year include Du Page, Will, and Tinley.

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- Chairperson Flanagan talked about the origins of Celebrating Seniors and the importance of changing the way aging is perceived with a focus on aging gracefully. He stated that there have been many discussions about the momentum and focus of the planning and work of the committees in addition to the programs and how they are scheduled and spread during the week of celebration. The committee discussed other alternatives including spreading the programs over the course of the month or having a program once a month culminating in a finale of Celebrating Seniors week.
- Dr. Lydia Manning will be working with students to update the Celebrating Seniors Resource Guide and give suggestions on ways to update the guide. Some of the new features may include a glossary of terms, definitions of common acronyms and services in aging, a checklist of events for the week, etc.
- Currently, there are processes being written for each component of Celebrating Seniors. The ultimate goal will be to create a guide to be trademarked and used in other communities. This guide will be a “Celebrating Seniors” in a box type product that will outline signage, advertising, fundraising, planning and processes for every stage of the program from the first day of planning through the last day of Celebrating Seniors week. Chairperson Flanagan also discussed the possibility of 1-2 minute YouTube videos outlining pieces of the process.
- The library is considering sponsoring programs for 2014.
- An informational meeting will be scheduled in October.
- A stakeholders’ summit is being planned, possibly using space at Concordia for a breakfast. The group is currently looking at dates.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Lydia Manning spoke to the committee about the Concordia mental health clinic which currently has low utilization. She is working on building a collaborative with Senior Services and investigating options like conducting support groups on site at Senior Services with a focus on resilience, capacity building, lifestyle engagement, and caregiver support.

Pat Koko announced that a Senior Services fair will be held with Representative Chris Welch at the Proviso Math & Science academy on October 5, 2013. There will be free lunch and bingo.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Cucina Paradiso.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Blair adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.