

Council on Aging

a Division of Community Resources Council

TO: Council on Aging
FROM: Rick Crawford, Chairperson

MEETING NOTICE:

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Cotton - O'Neil Cancer Center – Board Room

1414 SW 8th Ave. (N.E. of Stormont Vail Health Center)

AGENDA

Welcome

Attendance sheet sign-in

Approval of minutes for April 8, 2009

Announcements: Each person will provide information regarding current activity within their organization.

Program: Sunee Mickle, Director of Government Relations for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas

Adjournment

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Minutes from Wednesday, April 8, 2009
Cotton-O'Neil Cancer Center

Program: Kansas Department on Aging ~ Barbara Conant

Barbara began with an announcement about their annual conference and noted that historically the Governor's Conference is held during the first week of May, but due to financial constraints Secretary Greenleaf decided to host a one-day Senior 911 Summit on May 7th from 8:30am – 4:45pm. The cost of the event is \$30 and attendance will be limited to 250 people. Registrations need to be received by May 1st. For more information and to register, go to: www.agingkansas.org

Barbara then talked about legislation, noting that the discussion on the floor has pretty much centered on the budget this year, so legislation regarding seniors has been at a minimum. The public ban on smoking is a big issue right now, and KDOA has testified for the past three years for an exception to nursing homes. This year's bill does include that exception (HB2221). Nursing homes are homes first and foremost – it's not a hospital and it's not a healthcare facility. The facility can make the distinction whether to accept smoking or not.

The Silver Haired Legislature did have a couple of resolutions pass; bill number 2506, the Kansas Silver Plan. This is similar to the Amber Alert for children. It authorizes (but doesn't require) a quick media response, as well as collaboration with law enforcement if an elder wanders off, or goes missing. Another bill signed by the Governor is the geriatric medicine bill which allows medical scholarship assistance for those pursuing a geriatric fellowship in rural areas.

In looking at the budget recommendations for 2010 the bulk of the funding (75%) will continue to go towards nursing facilities. Home and community based services for the frail elderly is 15% of the budget and PACE and Targeted Case Management - each at 1%. The last 8% is used for congregate meals, home delivered meals, Older Americans Act, Senior Care Act, Licensure, Client Assessment, Referral and Evaluation, SHICK, and administration.

There were many cuts and adjustments to the budget, and one of the programs being cut is the Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The grant funding for STEPS (Seniors Together Enjoying Physical Success) will soon run out, so this program will also be discontinued.

Regarding federal stimulus money, it looks like there will be \$865,000.00 in additional funds for nutrition programs; spread out across two years. This funding will help with the congregate meals and home delivered meals.

Kansas Department on Aging

New England Building
503 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 296-4986

Announcements:

Lexington Park Assisted Living – Beverly Blassingame

National Nursing Home Week is coming up in May – the campus is doing a Wii bowling tournament. They will also have a food drive with the food going to the senior centers. Beverly also introduced the new director for Rolling Hills Assisted Living, Tammy Blake.

Canada Drug – JoAn Rauckman

Lots of new callers, many people are finding their insurance isn't covering certain medications. They are often able to provide a significant discount on the price of medications. They are also looking to hire more help to cover the phones.

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Community Resources Council – Loni Carroll

Starting a new senior education series, the first one is titled “Aging-in-Place; Product Ideas and Resources to Make Living at Home Safe”. CRC is partnering with Topeka Parks and Recreation and will host the seminar at the Carousel in the Park’s meeting room on May 13th, 2009 at 1:00 pm and again at 5:30 pm. Seating is limited, so an RSVP will need to be received by May 11th. 785-233-1365

Heartland Hospice ~ Evelyn Walters

They are currently looking for PRN nurses.

AARP – Mary Tritsch

AARP is advocating for health care reform on a national level and pushing to get something down now. Those interested, can learn more by going to www.healthactionnow.org Also, recently there has been legislation that the Governor will hopefully pass that will allow consumers to put a credit freeze on their records at their own discretion and not just if they’ve been a victim of identity theft.

Waddell & Reed – Rick Crawford

Waddell and Reed had been rated by Barron’s as the best mutual fund company in America over the period 2003-2008. Next month’s guest speaker will be Sunee Mickle, Director of Government Relations for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas. Rick also provided a handout on Long-Term Care as well as an invitation to attend an event featuring an expert on Long Term Care on April 21st, at 3:00 pm. The event will be held at the Plaza Grill meeting room in the Bank of America Towers. Call Rick at 233-6400, x114 by April 17th to RSVP for this event.

Cotton O’Neil Cancer Center – Kim Olson

They will be hosting a free skin cancer screening clinic on April 18th, from 8:00 am – Noon. Registration is required, call 354-5225 for an appointment. Kim also announced that Stormont Vail received their “magnet” recognition for excellence in nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Lifeline – Kittie Olberding

They have a new product called “Voice Extension” which allows remote access to the Lifeline system so a person can be outside, or in a remote area of the house and still be able to use their Lifeline system if necessary.

Topeka LULAC – Deborah Shobney

LULAC will be selling homemade Indian tacos on April 24th from 1-7pm. They will also be having their 2nd annual golf tournament on May 1st, 8am, at Cypress Ridge Golf Course. Call 234-5809 for more information.

Coldwell Banker Realtor – Carol Ronnebaum

Carol recognizes the challenges involved when a senior needs to sell their home and she tries to assist with this process as well as help seniors with resources they may not know about.

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging – Marilyn E. Thomas

JAAA will be hosting an event, “There’s No Place Like Home” on May 6th from 5:30 – 9:30 pm at the Great Overland Station. Tickets are \$15 per person. The event includes food catered by Aboud’s and music by Kings of Swing. For more information call 235-1367. Marilyn also provided a brochure on the Family Caregiver Support Program.

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HealthWise 55 – Connie Wood

May is Older American's Month and they are celebrating with numerous activities during that month. This year is also Stormont Vail's 125th year, so they will be featuring the history of the hospital at their monthly dinner. They are also hoping to start providing blood pressure checks at various places in the community.

Midland Care – Julie Prideaux

Midland is preparing for their 13th annual "Celebrate the Dash of Life" on Friday, May 8th. Sponsor forms are available for those interested in participating in the walk. There is also a silent auction available online at www.midlandcareconnection.org. Midland is also hosting a Volunteer Camp on April 17th & 18th. Call 232-2044, x410 for more information.

Midland PACE ~ Kate Hamilton

Their new adult day care facility is almost ready to open and they will be able to accommodate 82 people in their adult day care program.

Meals on Wheels – Marilyn Rivera

Their annual fund raiser "Sumptuous Settings" will be held May 1, 2 & 3rd at the Kansas Museum of History. Tickets are on sale at CoreFirst and Capital Federal banks and other locations. Call 354-5420 for more details. Marilyn also noted that they have expanded their routes to include Lake Sherwood and hope to expand their radius even further.

Presbyterian Manor – Connie Christy Kessler

Preparing for a flea-market for their Good Samaritan fundraiser to help their residents in need of rental assistance.

Brewster at Home – Tim McManus

They currently have 50 people in their program.

TARC – Olga Hennessey

TARC will be hosting a couple of fund raisers this spring. The first is a golf tournament to be held June 20th at Lake Shawnee and the second will be a fashion show on May 28th at 1:30 pm at the public library. In August they will have their annual art show, but this year they will be incorporating it with the First Friday Art Walk. Call 232-0597 for more information.

In Attendance

Loni Carroll – Community Resources Council
JoAn Rauckman – Canada Drug of Topeka
Julie Prideaux – Midland Care
Marilyn E Thomas – JAAA
Tim McManus – Brewster at Home
Kate Hamilton – Midland Care PACE
Amanda Nickerson – Midland Care PACE
Kim Olson – Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center
Rick Crawford – Waddell & Reed
Kittie Olberding – Lifeline
Deborah Shobney – Topeka LULAC

Carol Ronnebaum – Coldwell Banker Realtor
Connie Wood – HealthWise 55
Beverly Blassingame – Lexington Park
Tammy S. Blake – Rolling Hills Assisted Living
Evelyn Walter – Heartland Hospice
Barb Conant – KS Department on Aging
Mary Tritsch – AARP
Marilyn Rivera – Meals on Wheels
Teresa Holmer – Gatekeepers Assmt Team
Connie Christy Kessler – Presbyterian Manor
Olga Hennessey - TARC