

**CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING & SENIOR CENTER**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**January 20, 2015 @ 308 Lawndale St., Grayling**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Carol Lovely.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cheryl Hopp, Dean McCray, Matthew LeBlanc, Terry Lockwood, Jack Mahank, and Carol Lovely. Jamie McClain arrived at 6:04pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Director Snyder, Melanie Conway, Lynn Cheney, Karl Schreiner, Kara LaMarre, Earl Corpe, Mary Dale, Don and Lockey Fredlund, Robert O'Brien, Luann Pickell, and Marilyn Root.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by McCray. A prayer was offered by Hopp.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Jack, supported by McCray to approve the agenda. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Dean, supported by Lockwood to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**REPORTS**

**A. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Snyder stated that if our spending in Respite stays at the same rate, then at six months the COA would have to send some money back to get redistributed. In the meal program if there is a decrease in numbers this year then we would get a decrease in funding the next fiscal year, unless all counties are down. In general across the nation congregate numbers are decreasing. Home delivered meals (HDM) are not decreasing nationwide, even though our numbers are down. If you look at the service report for meals, we are still over spending our money with 43% YTD which should be at 25%. It is hard to predict how many people are going to need services from year to year. The 2010 census shows that the number of seniors in Crawford County increased, while the total population went down. Mahank stated that we will always worry about our fund balance. The numbers are uncertain from year to year, and this is the reason we need to have a contingency fund. Lockwood asked if there was a reason for the increase in personal care. Director Snyder stated that more people need help bathing. The agency is not doing any additional marketing. Mahank stated that the increase or decrease in client load could be the reason we would be in the black or red.

Motion made by Mahank, supported by McClain to receive and file the Directors report with all attachments. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero. Motion carried.

**B. COMMUNITY PLAN QUARTERLY REPORT:** Mahank stated that it is difficult to run an Adult Day Care program. Should we look into partnering with another county who offers it? The caretaker would take the senior and then use the free time to do other things. A number of years ago we sought funding and did not get it. We did partner with Otsego Haus. Snyder said that Otsego Haus is open to everyone if they can get there. Transportation could be an issue. Lockwood asked LeBlanc if he was getting inquiries about Adult Day Care. LeBlanc stated not too often.

**C. NEMCSA:** Mahank did not attend the last meeting do to being snowed in.

**D. NORTHEAST MICHIGAN REGIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING – Earl Corpe**

- a. Report from meeting on Oct 23, 2014. Mr. Corpe asked Director Snyder to be a guest speaker at the February 23, 2015 meeting. Dave Brisco discussed the trends with deeds and the difference between the types of them. Susan Kray discussed the change in how things are done as the baby boomers are getting older. More baby boomers are moving north and they are more independent. They are waiting longer to ask for services and then need more services. Our COA could use more funding for personal care. Millage dollars are 57% of our budget. Carol Athens is off of the AAA board due to 3 unexcused absences. Director report from October 17, 2014. State Commission on Aging meeting was given with information on funding new senior centers. They are also asking for funds to train more people. RSVP is successful but is still in need of more funding. Discussed as a Region how to support all senior centers. Lack of funding to support programs is happening in all counties not just Crawford County. White House Conference on Aging will be in July of this year. Looks at programs for the aging. As of right now the Older Americans Act has not been renewed.
- b. Meeting on December 1, 2014. Guest Speaker Dona Wishart from Otsego County. Our COA faces increased needs and a stable or decrease in funds. Have not seen an influx of baby boomers yet but they are moving north. Election for officers is coming up and Earl is the only person running for Chairman. Gina Bey gave power point program on veterans. The VA reform bill will give veterans a choice card if more than 40 miles from a VA clinic, or waited more than 30 days for care. Crawford County is not eligible, because they are not 40 miles away. Elder abuse bills 866 and 867 passed the Senate and is waiting for House.
- c. Corpe voiced his concern that McCray asked for a raise in the per diem rate for board members. Corpe stated that he would not come to any more meetings to give his report, but instead will email his reports. Mahank asked why he didn't turn in an expense report and if he got mileage to Alpena. Corpe stated that he does get mileage to Alpena and when you volunteer you should take what they give you.

**GAZETTE ADVERTISING:**

McClain and Hopp split the list of expired advertisers and called them to see if they would be interested in renewing their ad. Lovely would like to thank all board members who solicited ads. Some excel at selling ads. Lovely would like to propose that board members work directly with Cheney to renew and get new ads. Cheney can work individually with board members about the ads. Mahank stated that Cheney is a great asset for selling and renewing ads. Mahank stated that he spent an hour and half on ads this month. There are some untapped areas which could be a big source of funding for the agency. Instead of letting the discussion go away, Mahank suggested that we create an Ad Hoc committee to work on the Gazette advertising. Lockwood stated that when families are looking for a place to donate, she encourages them to look at the COA. Lockwood also donates cloth reusable bags for the HDM program which saves us a lot of money. Mahank asked where we are right now for the year in advertising dollars. Director Snyder stated that we are projected to have

\$19,735 for the year. Last year cost us around \$10,000 to produce the Gazette. The volunteer hours were not tracked. The advertising revenue of \$19,700 would cover the cost. If we have to pay a staff member we would have to add an additional \$13,000. The total cost would be \$23,000. The person that does the Gazette also does all the flyers, press releases and website updates. Lockwood stated that the time spent, 15-20 minutes per board meeting could be used on other issues. A report on advertising could be added to the Director's Report. Motion made by McClain, supported by Lockwood to remove the Gazette from the board meeting agenda and have Cheney work directly with board members. Mahank asked for a roll call vote. Hopp - Aye, McCray - Aye, LeBlanc - Aye, Lockwood - Aye, Mahank - Nay, Lovely - Aye and McClain - Aye. Ayes (6) six, nays (1) one. Motion carried.

Break at 7:16 pm, back to order at 7:22pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **SENIOR HOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Director Snyder and Karl Schreiner have been working on creating this new program. It became apparent that home repairs are a need. Examples include snow plowing, roof raking, wheel chair ramps, etc. Habitat for Humanity does have a program called Brush with Kindness that helps with small projects. Initially we thought that we could just partner with them to get needed projects completed. Schreiner now has a seat on the Board of Habitat and would like to work together. When we were unsure if they would be available to help with projects, we started putting together this program based off of the Tuesday Toolman Program. Schreiner stated that the program is designed to help low income seniors with minor home repairs. Income level 200% of poverty level and below. Mahank stated that the NEMCSA Weatherization program has a 2-3 year wait. Applicants will be asked to share in the cost of repairs. We have three people who are interested in volunteering for the program. Volunteers will need to fill out an application and list skills they have. They will also need two references that can verify that they can do the work. There will be an inspection to make sure there is a need for the project. Once the program is running, we can see how much need there is and ask for donations. Lovely stated that the homeowners insurance will cover the liability when the volunteer is working on the home repairs. Mahank wants to make sure the COA is not setting itself up for liability. Schreiner stated that Joe Duran, County Building Inspector has looked at the program. Mahank would like the County's attorney look at it. Mahank asked if it is a program that would run year to year. Director Snyder stated that if it is successful, then we might look for a grant to help fund it. This program is for people that cannot get help from other services. Lockwood would like to see if Home Depot or Lowes would have a grant to help fund it. Director Snyder stated that first we need to see ~~the~~ how it works and the needs before applying for grants. Snyder will talk to Paul Compo about the legal and liability issues. The program will start February 1<sup>st</sup>. Schreiner would like to call it Senior Home Assistance and Repair Program (SHARP). Mahank stated that this board holds the public trust and it should not go forth until it has been reviewed by legal. Motion by Mahank, supported by McCray to bring it back to the ~~board~~ board after it has been taken to county legal counsel for full board approval before the program can start. Mahank asked for a roll call vote. Hopp - Aye, McCray - Aye, LeBlanc - Nay, Lockwood - Nay, Mahank - Aye, Lovely - Nay and McClain - Nay. Ayes (3) three, nays (4) four. Motion failed. Lovely asked Director Snyder to email the Board the information from legal counsel and the insurance agent.

- b. **TAX ASSISTANCE:** We have partnered this year with NEMSCA to run the Tax Aide program. We have three volunteers. One is done with training, one is half done, and third one is just starting. We will be using the building across the street free of charge courtesy of the Grayling Housing Commission. We have an additional volunteer who will schedule appointments. Last year we were plus/minus 200 seniors and about 600 total. McCray is very pleased that we got this program going.
- c. **EMERGENCY FUND ASSISTANCE:** Sometimes there are needs that are not being met elsewhere. This year we are going to budget \$5,000 to an Emergency Fund. We will be using 150% federal poverty level to qualify. If the client has over \$2,000 in resources then they will not be eligible. Will talk to seniors to see if they can help with the cost. We will be looking at the whole household income and not just the seniors. A senior can apply for up to \$500 per fiscal year. The money would be sent to the business not to the senior. We will track the information in My Senior Center to see how well the program is working. Formal advertising will not be used for the funding assistance. Staff will share with community partners who also encounter seniors with unmet needs.
- d. **GOVERNANCE ENDS EVALUATION:** Motion by Mahank, supported by Lockwood, to move to Old Business on the next meeting. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero. Motion carried.
- e. **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SURVEY RESULTS:** Mahank went to this meeting and would like to compliment Lovely and Snyder on a great job. Lovely is happy that the Commissioners feel more informed about the COA, but we still need to inform them more about our resources, because question three went down. Business after hours was suggested. Snyder cannot justify spending millage money for these events and alcohol is not allowed in the building. Director Snyder is considering hosting in 2016 when we are up for a millage renewal. Motion made by Mahank, supported by Lockwood to receive and file the County Commissioners report. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero. Motion carried.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/CONCERNS:** Lockwood stated that a word came up four times during our meeting: Baby boomers. It would be good to research their wants and needs.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Lockwood, supported by McClain to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. Ayes (7) seven, nays (0) zero. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean McCray, Secretary

Recorded by Lynn Cheney