



Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.

GREEN RIVER AREA COUNCIL ON AGING

December 5, 2017

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Area Council on Aging met on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) office. The following persons were in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Daviess	Susan Howard, Henrietta Harris, Mattie Jones, Melinda Cornell, Nora Bilbro-Richie, Betty Medley, Jon Higdon
Hancock	Franklin Powers, Diann Crask, Jean Mattingly
Henderson	Charlye Jo Griggs, Connie O'Leary
McLean	Leona Austin, Jim Toler
Ohio	Cluster Belcher, Mary Young, Wilda Hardesty
Union	None
Webster	Tracy Henry, Tonia Morrow

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Daviess	All Present
Hancock	All Present
Henderson	Suzanne Cravens
McLean	Nancy Wetzell
Ohio	All Present
Union	Cathy Strehle, Larry Strehle, *Linda Carter
Webster	*Carolyn Townsend

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Dana Peveler, Munday Activity Center (MAC)
 Heather McGarvey, MAC
 Brenda Renfrow, Ohio County Senior Services (OCSS)
 Judele Stone, OCSS
 Wanda Blackwell, Webster County Senior Services
 Melissa Polites, Union County Senior Services

Jack McCaslin, *Chairman* ■ Steve Austin, *Vice Chairman* ■ Kelly Thurman, *Secretary* ■ David Johnston, *Treasurer* ■ Jiten Shah, *Executive Director*
 *Excused Absence

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT (cont.)

Lona Kratzer, Hancock County Senior Services
Becka Skaggs, The Gathering Place
Scott Settle, McLean County Senior Services
Daniel Miller, McLean County Senior Services
Debra Jacob, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)
Jarrod Roberts, Wellcare Health
David Farley, Kentucky Legal Aid
Debbie Zuerner-Johnson, Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH)
Ruby McGill, Webster County
George Chinn, Ohio County
Bill Cooper, Daviess County
Jennifer Williams, Associate Director for Social Services, GRADD
Jeanette Woodward, SAMS Database Administrator, GRADD
Sheila Howard, District Ombudsman, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Kelli King, Family Caregiver Program Coordinator, GRADD
Liberty Watson, Support Services Technician, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Susan Howard called the meeting to order. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, then Vice Chairperson Cluster Belcher led the council in prayer. Chairperson Howard extended a welcome to Jon Higdon who will be representing the Department of Veterans Affairs on the council.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the October 3, 2017, Meeting

Secretary Franklin Powers presented the minutes of the October 3, 2017, meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging for approval.

A motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by Charlye Jo Griggs to approve the October 3, 2017, minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Program Reports

1. McLean County

Scott Settle provided a report on recent activities with McLean County Senior Services. Thirty-five seniors traveled to enjoy a performance of the Stephen Foster Story. A trip to Clarksville, Indiana was taken in conjunction with Munday Activity Center. Over 100

attended a BBQ and eclipse viewing and the Fall Dance was also attended by over 100. Regular activities such as blood pressure and blood sugar checks, flu shot clinics, and visits by Kentucky Legal Aid have continued. An exercise class focusing on bone density has been successful and will continue after the holidays. A pulmonary clinic was sponsored by Greenville hospital. Activities in conjunction with Ohio and Webster Counties include Bingo and dining at Catfish Harbor. The local after-school program donated 13 turkey dinners for home-bound seniors for Thanksgiving. Mr. Settle and Daniel Miller regularly deliver commodities to home-bound seniors.

2. Union County

Melissa Polites reported Medicare Part D comparisons have kept the staff busy, and at this time over \$35,000 has been saved by individuals through the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provided by Union County Senior Services. The Thanksgiving Dinner was attended by 75 seniors. A local youth group will be serving the upcoming Christmas Dinner. The Christmas Wish program is underway.

3. Daviess County/Munday Activity Center

Dana Peveler reported Matter of Balance training has taken place over a two-month period. US Bank is sponsoring the Christmas Dinner. MAC staff has also been busy with Part D comparisons. Old Hickory donated turkeys and hams which were delivered to approximately 120 home-bound seniors. The seniors will be hosting a Christmas party on Friday. Ms. Peveler shared a new initiative to provide weekend meals to seniors who are currently served home-delivered meals. OHRH will be transporting unused food from their cafeteria to MAC, where the food will be portioned and frozen. Clients with the greatest need, such as high nutrition risk or isolation, will receive the meals.

C. Meal Driver Training Report

This item was tabled due to the cancellation of Meal Driver Training due to a water main break in Owensboro.

D. Budget Review

Lisa Flahardy provided a report for the period of July 1 through October 31, 2017. Ms. Flahardy stated at this point in the year, programs should be at 33 percent of their allocated funds and most programs are on track. Case Management services will begin to slow down as the Department for Aging and Independent Living has issued a freeze on these services in anticipation of state budget cuts. Title 3D, health promotion programs, is low; however, classes are scheduled and most counties have an increase in these programs during spring months.

E. Request for Proposal

Jennifer Williams stated the GRADD Board of Directors approved Kentucky Legal Aid as the provider for legal aid services and Help at Home for the provider of in-home

services. The legal aid services is a \$20,000 contract and the in-home services is a \$425,710 contract. These amounts are subject to change pending state allocations.

III. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sheila Howard, District Ombudsman, discussed three volunteer roles in the Ombudsman Program. The Older Americans Act mandates that all states have a Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. In Kentucky, each ADD an Ombudsman Program. Within the GRADD region, there are 25 facilities and approximately 2,200 residents. The program exists to protect the rights of those residents, identify, investigate, and help resolve complaints and concerns of the residents, and to be a regular friendly visitor to residents.

The first volunteer role discussed was that of the Friendly Visitor. More than 60 percent of long term care residents do not have visitors. Friendly Visitors help alleviate the isolation and loneliness such residents experience. Friendly Visitors are asked to commit one hour a week to visit one to two residents. Two hours of training are provided, and volunteers are accompanied by the district long term care ombudsman on the first three visits, where the volunteer is introduced to the facility staff and the residents they will visit. A Certified Ombudsman Volunteer completes 24 hours of training and is certified to investigate and help resolve complaints and concerns of residents. Recertification is required every two years. Ms. Howard recommends that anyone interested in becoming a Certified Ombudsman Volunteer begin by serving as a Friendly Visitor.

Another avenue for volunteering is to serve on the Ombudsman Advisory Council, which helps the Ombudsman Program stay connected with the community. The advisory council is made up of persons interested in improving the quality of life and protecting the rights of residents. All volunteers with the Ombudsman Program must complete applications and submit to background checks (paid for by the program), sign conflict of interest and confidentiality forms yearly, and obtain four hours of continuing education yearly. Ms. Howard said all training takes place with her at GRADD or during supervised facility visits. Opportunities for continuing education are also provided through the GRADD office. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Ombudsman Program can contact Ms. Howard at the GRADD office.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Silver Bells Christmas Project

Sheila Howard updated the council on this project of the Ombudsman Program. Christmas cards will be delivered to each resident of the six personal care homes in the GRADD region. Initially, plans were to deliver “goodie bags” to residents at Henderson Manor and Bishop Soenneker. St. John Paul II School in Union County has collected items, assembled bags, and made cards for the residents of Henderson Manor. Ms. Howard and other GRADD staff will visit the school to collect the bags and help students better understand the role of an Ombudsman, and the needs of persons in personal care homes. Due to the abundance of donations, bags will also be delivered to Sunny Acres. The bags will contain items, such as snack cakes and crackers, sodas, chap stick and lotion, gloves and sock caps, and fresh fruit. In addition, if funds are available, GRADD staff intends to purchase a popcorn maker for Sunny

Acres. Staff at the Sunny Acres facility stated the residents really enjoy popcorn and the popcorn machine they had for several years recently broke. All donations will be collected by December 13 and delivery to the three facilities will be December 20.

B. Area Plan/Needs Assessment Survey

Jennifer Williams explained that every three years the Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living is required to submit a new Area Plan. The plan states what services will be provided and the plan for providing those services throughout the region. In order to determine services that are most needed, a needs assessment survey is conducted. Each member of the council should have received a survey in the mail. Surveys are sent to providers, community partners, GRADD board members, and others. Extra copies were available at the meeting. Ms. Williams stated the input provided through the survey is very helpful in guiding GRADD staff in drafting the Area Plan.

C. Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Susan Howard presented the following slate of officers for 2018:

Chairperson:	Susan Howard
Vice-Chairperson:	Henrietta Harris
Secretary:	Franklin Powers

With no nominations from the floor, Chairperson Howard asked for a motion to approve the above slate of officers.

A motion was made by Cluster Belcher and seconded by Connie O'Leary to approve the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Thank You to Outgoing Members

Cluster Belcher, Mattie Jones, and Tonia Morrow were presented certificates of appreciation for their service to the Green River Area Council on Aging. Collectively, these members have served 34 years on the council.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Aging Council meeting – February 6, 2018.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned.