

## LEE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, April 16, 2014 The Enrichment Center Conference Room 8:30 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Alice Beardslee, Jim Payne, Donese Pulley, Esther Siler, Jim Turner, Mary Upchurch

**Board Members Absent:** Woody Beale, Commissioner Ricky Frazier, Karen Oldham

**Staff Present:** Debbie Davidson, Melanie Rodgers, Debbie Williams

8:30 a.m. Mary Upchurch opens the meeting and welcomes everyone. She asked for approval of the agenda. Alice Beardslee made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Jim Payne, all were in favor. Mary Upchurch asked if there were any questions about the March 19, 2014 meeting minutes. With no questions, Donese Pulley made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jim Turner, all were in favor.

Debbie Davidson provided an update and handouts about the Saturday, October 11, 2014, Helping Fund Golf Tournament. Sponsorships, teams and door prizes are being sought. Board members are asked to assist. The tournament will be held at Quail Ridge. Lunch will be provided at 12:00 p.m. and shotgun start is 1:00 p.m.

Debbie Williams reviewed upcoming programs and distributed flyers. The Rex Mobile Mammography unit will be at The Enrichment Center Friday, May 2. Free mammograms are provided to those without medical insurance. Other programs included: Card and Games Party will be April 17; National Senior Fitness Day May 15; Gay 90s May 21; Living with Diabetes August 2014.

Debbie Davidson advised Senior Games and Silver Arts registrations are being accepted through April 30, 2014. Opening Ceremonies will be Tuesday, May 13 with events through May 23. Sponsorship of fees is available if needed by a participant.

Jim Turner advised he will provide a program in the Diners Club on April 25 about free smoke detectors. NCBAM is the sponsoring agency along with local fire departments.

Debbie Davidson advised that three comments/suggestion have been received regarding repairs to The Enrichment Center parking lot. There are pot holes and cracks causing safety issues. Debbie will submit the request to the General Services Dept. Director.

Jim Payne asked if we have a volunteer available to assist with Medicare appeals. There was a recent article in the Raleigh News & Observer related to backlog of appeals. Debbie Davidson advised Janice Holmes is the contact person regarding Medicare questions and referrals.

Esther Siler reported on the Senior Tar Heel Legislature meeting. The FY15 Home and Community Care Block Grant was reduced \$137,000 for the Triangle J Region. There has not been an increase in HCCBG funds since 2008. Reductions mean fewer seniors 60 and over receive vital services to remain in their homes and this population grows each day. There will be a one day summit in May about Elder Abuse.

8:55 a.m. Guest Joan Pellettier, Director, Triangle J Area Agency on Aging, arrives.

Esther Siler reported that 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act. In 2025 eighty-nine counties will have more older adults than individuals' ages 0-17.

Mary Upchurch welcomed and introduced Joan Pellettier. Mary reported the book The Power of Personal Persuasion by Deanna Gelak was featured at the Senior Tar Heel Legislature. The next Senior Tar Heel Legislature session will be June 12-13, 2014.

Melanie Rodgers distributed and reviewed the March 2014 Financial Report. A copy is attached to the original minutes.

Joan Pellettier reported that HCCBG allocations are calculated using census data. Although most recent census figures should be used in determining the Intrastate Funding Formula Rate, Federal sequestration made that implementation problematic. However, the Division of Aging and Adult Services has determined that the updated figures should be used for FY 15. The outcome is that some counties had their population estimates somewhat inflated in past years, and others were too low. So, despite the fact that virtually every county had a growth in its older population, the actual growth numbers (census vs estimates) necessitated the adjustment of each county's share of the Intrastate Funding Formula Rate. With the use of the census figures came the state's decision to hold every county to a hold harmless of 95% of their FY 14 funding. Lee County was fortunate to gain dollars by way of census numbers.

Mary Upchurch opened the FY15 Home and Community Care Block Grant Hearing. Melanie Rodgers distributed and reviewed the description of the HCCBG as authorized in G.S. 143B-181.1(a)(11) and relates to the OAA, Older Americans Act. Melanie distributed the FY15 HCCBG Lee County Provider Services Summary and reviewed each service area and dollars for each. Total FY2015 HCCBG funding for Lee County is \$353,230. A copy of the Provider Services Summary is attached to the original minutes. Debbie Davidson asked Joan Pellettier to explain I&A service changes. Joan Pellettier reported that the HCCBG service I&A, Information & Assistance, in FY2015 will become I&OC, Information & Options Counseling. The Federal government has made this change in an effort to respond to consumer needs through staff members with more training. This additional training will enable the staff members to provide a broader range as well as more person-centered options and plan so that the client can advocate for themselves. There are pilot programs currently in Wake and Orange Counties. The drawback is it's time consuming and that means less participants/clients served on all levels. There is no additional funding with the Federal change. With no further questions, Mary Upchurch asked for a motion to accept the FY15 HCCBG Lee County Provider Services Summary. Esther Siler made a motion to accept, seconded by Alice Beardslee, all were in favor.

Debbie Davidson provided Lee County department updates. There has been a FY2015 Lee County budget discussion with the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Sheriff's Department taking over the SRO, School Resource Officers. Lee County was informed that dollars would come with the change from the state; however, no dollars have been received. Therefore, either a tax increase will be necessary or Lee County departments may have to take up to a 2% reduction in each of their budgets to cover the costs. With reductions the last seven years in the Senior Services and other department budgets, there is little or no room for further cuts.

**Old/New Business** –Debbie Davidson reported that work on The Enrichment Center trail has been completed. Please walk the trail when you have an opportunity as it is wider and has a better surface. Equipment for MySeniorCenter, the computerized attendance data program, has been arriving. MySeniorCenter training will take place June 2014. Volunteers will be needed to assist customers with the equipment and learn how to use it. We are still waiting for final approval from the County Manager's and County Attorney's offices to begin Silver Sneakers.

Jim Payne reported that the IRS/AARP Tax program processed 600+ 2013 tax returns.

Debbie Davidson asked the Board to meet Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. due to the Gay 90s Luncheon being held Wednesday, May 21. Jim Turner made a motion to move the next meeting to Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at The Enrichment Center, seconded by Donese Pulley, all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Melanie Rodgers

On behalf of Debbie Davidson, Secretary

Mary Upchurch, Chair

Debbie Davidson

Esther Siler - Vice Chair