

LEE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Board Members Present: Alice Beardslee, Commissioner Ricky Frazier, Jim Payne, Donese Pulley, Esther Siler, Mary Upchurch

Board Members Absent: Woody Beale, Karen Oldham, Jim Turner

Staff Present: Debbie Davidson, Melanie Rodgers, Debbie Williams

Mary Upchurch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Board approved the October 16, 2013 minutes.

Debbie Williams distributed flyers about upcoming programs. Ballroom Dance lessons are extremely popular (beginner, refresher and advanced) and will resume Jan. 2014. The next Living Healthy with Diabetes series will be Jan. 2014. A free vision screening will be held Feb. 17 on behalf of the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation. Registration is requested.

Debbie Williams advised that there were no suggestions submitted since the last meeting.

Debbie Davidson provided an update about The Enrichment Center Angel Tree. Adoptions are going well. Volunteers are needed to assist with deliveries. Contact Tami Carter or Laurie Draughn.

Melanie Rodgers provided the October 2013 Financial Report. A copy is attached to the original minutes. Jim Payne asked if the Federal budget sequester for October Wednesday meals was covered. Debbie Davidson advised yes, through private donations.

Debbie Davidson provided Lee County Department updates. An additional \$1700 has been allocated to Lee County through SHIP (Seniors Health Insurance Information Program). It's an extension grant that requires no county dollars and its purpose is to market "Relay for Extra Help." Medicare recipients with limited income and assets may qualify for money-saving programs for prescription drug plan and medical coverage premiums, deductibles and copayments. Mary Upchurch asked how Medicare Part D open enrollment appointments were going. Debbie Davidson advised that there are no more available appointments and customers are being directed to the toll free SHIP telephone number. They may also attend an open clinic on Nov. 21 or Dec. 4, no appointment required. Debbie advised the FY2014 COLTS grant contracts have been signed and submitted to NCDOT/PTD. Once finalized by PTD, reimbursement of expenses can be requested. Russ McBryde in the COLTS office will retire Dec. 6. The NC Division of Aging & Adult Services has made a change to the HCCBG (Home & Community Care Block Grant). The Information & Assistance service will be replaced with Options Counseling. The service requires certification and extensive care plans for at least 8 clients. The care plan could extend past the independence of the client; such as nursing home or assisted living care. Staff will attend Options Counseling training in January 2014.

Mary Upchurch advised the Executive Committee of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature met and volunteerism is a top initiative. STHL representatives will be able to access a presentation through 'the cloud' using Apple products (iPad) and provide it to community groups.

Donese Pulley advised that Triangle J Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board met Nov. 19. The major focus of the meeting was assisted living. PBS will broadcast *Life & Death in Assisted Living*. Check local listing or the web site to access the show. Assisted Living facilities in NC are not Federal or State regulated. They are for-profit businesses. There is concern over how well employees are trained as well as staff to resident ratio. Another agenda item was The Affordable Care Act as it relates to Medicare, Medicaid and employers. Americans without insurance must apply by Dec. 15, 2013 to avoid penalties Jan. 2014. Information about COACH, Caring for Older Adults and Caregivers at Home, program through Dept. of Veterans Affairs was distributed. A copy is attached to the original minutes.

Old/New Business – After discussion, The Board agreed to not meet in December. The next Senior Services Advisory Board meeting will be at 8:30 am, Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted by Melanie Rodgers

On behalf of Debbie Davidson, Secretary

Mary Upchurch, Chair

Debbie Davidson - Secretary
Mary Upchurch