

AGING SERVICES COUNCIL

Minutes: June 4, 2009

Time:

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: St. David's Foundation

Attendees:

Joyce Lauck	AGE	Joyce Hefner	Family Eldercare
Eva Church	AGE/CRC	Krystal Wilson	Family Eldercare
Della Sprager	TC-HHSD RSVP	Amy Russell	PARD
Christian Wells	Alz Assoc	Bruce Kravitz	AGE
Michael Wilson	SDCHF	Jesse Colunga	PARD
Mary Dodd	CAN	Korey Darling	TCHHS/VS
Kathleen Coggin	Family Eldercare	Katy Kappel	TX Silver Haired Legislators
Mary Teeters	MOWAM	Mick Koffend	Accountable Aging
Rachel Portnoy	APS	Jeanie Teel	Faith in Action Caregivers
Kenneth Witherspoon	HAND	Sister JT Dwyer	Seton Family of Hospitals

Items covered:

1. Welcome and Introductions: Sign in sheet was passed around.
2. Review of Minutes: - Minutes from April meeting were reviewed and approved with changes.
3. Subcommittee and Steering Committee Updates:
 - **Transportation:** Joyce Lauck informed the Council that the Sub Committee plans to work with the RTCC (**Regional Transit Coordination Committee**) so that efforts are not duplicated. The group met to update the RTCC objectives; planning to move forward with information already gathered and not hold more forums (looking for alternatives). The group identified three focal areas; to maximize metro access, create a toolkit of information and resources for consumers (update RIDE Guide, education, training) and to maximize resources of service providers. Discussion was held regarding how ASC members can help: 1). hold small meetings with constituents to get feedback since the forums can be overwhelming; 2). Jesse Colunga shared the idea of using PARD vehicles for transportation when they are not in use (barrier is concern about liability). Jesse gave example of lack of financial support to expand services in that he returned a grant for taxi vouchers because they could not come up with the \$2,000 in matching funds. Michael Wilson suggested contacting Saint David's if you run into any similar barriers in the future, especially if the request is less than \$10K. This could be submitted as an innovation grant.
 - **Senior Ambassador Group:** Korey Darling passed around a Neighborhood Ambassador Proposal handout and reported that the committee met one month ago. The committee plans to implement a "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" initiative similar to one carried out in Tarrant County. Korey discussed the goals of the proposal; communication of information, support of older adults and connecting and engaging all parties while encouraging feedback. The committee approach will be to distribute information through e-newsletter and have ambassadors to reach further; y interacting with community and collecting information and questions. The committee hopes to have pilot by July 15 and plans to test it through the senior centers to see how it goes, receive feedback and evaluate the reach. Methods discussed included a newsletter with a template that can be filled in by anyone, working with RSVP volunteers and using consumers as ambassadors as well. Information can also be sent through power and cable companies to reach more people. St. David's Health's Angels may be interested after seeing the interest generated from the pilot.
 - **Depression and Isolation:** Mary Teeters reports that the group met in April with Namkee Choi and they are proposing to do specialized training on PHQ9. MOW has already incorporated this tool into their everyday assessment and Linda Perez is very familiar with tool and could lead the training, potentially in early August. The training would be offered to ASC partners and would include additional outreach, potentially church groups. In May (Older Americans Month), Namkee was able to present her data and her work with MOW to the Community Council. There seemed to be a lot of interest from the council about mental health and when everyone uses the same tool, you are able to share the data. They found that homebound adults ages 50-59 had a higher level of depression than older age groups. If the PHQ9 is adopted as a standard protocol, Saint David's would like to know so that they can do trending and comparisons across organizations. The group discussed looking for a way to standardize the information for other age groups. The coordinator was asked to post the PHQ9 screening tool and the resource tool on the Yahoo groups page for members to use.
 - **Caregiver University:** Kathleen Coggin reported that the subgroup has met twice. She discussed the matrix and its intention to find what is already available in the community for caregiver training. Members identified all current

training they had available today and Annette Juba's intern compiled the information into a matrix which includes; age group, charge, frequency, respite offered, session length, and presenter. The group plans to expand this out the council. The next step the group took was to look to the council to see what they are looking to accomplish. The committee (with Family Eldercare grant writer) worked with ACC on a grant for caregiving projects. These are sponsored by Met Life Foundation and only awarded to community colleges. The turn-around was fast and the grant has been written and submitted prior to full ASC review. Regardless of the funding decision, we now have a good template of the stages in a caregiver career that the subcommittee can use in developing the forums. ACC developed modules related to the stages; dementia, how to work with, understanding how to work with and develop skills. The decision on the grant will be made in June. The bulk of the grant will go to scholarships so that low and moderate income caregivers can participate for as low as \$30 per module (avg. 3 hr per module). The program is not targeted to professionals. Caregivers will not have to qualify to take the ACC course as it is continuing education. The subcommittee will reconvene and see how they can utilize that info on training available and use as a great template. The coordinator will post the stages in a caregiver career on the Yahoo groups page.

- **Home Repair:** ASC members have joined a home repair/rehabilitation collaborative to represent the needs of older adults (Bruce K. reported that the group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month). The subcommittee discussed how the city, county and non profits should work together to solve issues if an individual has multiple repairs. The collaborative is planning a pilot project for someone needing multiple repairs to test how centralized coordination might work (Habitat is taking the lead on the project). The city council voted to release \$2M in bond money for home repairs and this could be another source of money for non-profits. Mary Dodd will attend a meeting mid-June to get input around the parameters for the release of those funds and the use of those funds. The group discussed the possibilities of putting together the financial component for each agency involved in a repair project, the possibility of using a screening tool, and coming up with a rehab inventory for one contractor to go out and find all the needs in a home instead of having all the agencies go out and pick individual projects that they can do in the home. Mary expressed the need for a coordinating entity but not a case worker, someone who knows enough about construction to know all of what needs to happen and knows enough of the programs to say they qualify for these programs.
- **Steering Committee:** At the July 13th Steering Committee meeting members will discuss the Saint David's application which includes support of the ASC Coordinator position and outline the projects and budget items for the application. They will look at what the coordinator has been working on this year and request a report from each subcommittee of any areas/activities that they will need support with. The application will be reviewed at the August council meeting. Joyce Lauck offered her organization's grant writer to write the grant again this year.

4. Discuss 2010 ASC grant proposal to St. David's Foundation (currently funds the program coordinator position)

Application for coordinator position discussed during Steering Committee Update. Michael reported that there is money available from SDCHF for projects and that they Foundation is considering moving from smaller grant amounts to \$40-\$50K as minimum grant amount. He suggested that the Council consider submitting proposals beyond the grant for coordinator position, such as projects from each of these sub committees and to create a separate line item for each so that the Board can pick and choose by line item. They want to fund in a way that they are making a difference.

5. Announcements:

- Joyce L. reports that AGE has durable medical equipment. There is a wait list for lift chairs.
- Mary Dodd reports that one of their 3 main initiatives is to maximize enrollment in public assistance programs – participation in Medicare, Medicaid, TANF, SNAP (Foodstamps), and public benefits is low. Individuals qualify for programs but they do not realize it. They will be doing a massive community outreach in August to all people who can qualify and encouraging everyone to enroll in everything they can. They are working with the BNC, CAFB and any volunteers who may want to help clients fill out applications. Looking at developing long-term plan.
- The Fall Prevention Coalition bill was approved. This will include a quarterly newsletter, activity around Fall Prevention Week (1st week of fall), and promote the "A Matter of Balance" program. Members are encouraged to plan to be involved in FPW activities.
- Katy announced that the Legislature created the Committee on Aging, extended the Neighbor to Neighbor pilot, and approved the Fall Prevention bill, She will send out a recap of the session to the group.
- Family Eldercare's Fan Fare Friday will be on June 26th at Threadgill's raising fans and funds for the Fan Drive.
- The next General Meeting will be held August 6th at St. David's

6. Adjourn 10:13 am: Next Steering Committee is June 8 at 3 p.m. Next ASC meeting is August 6th.