

Minutes are provided for informational purposes only. The official record can be obtained from the County Clerk's office. All minutes are unofficial until approved. Minutes are generally approved at the following meeting

MINUTES

Pierce County Council on Aging
February 21, 2006

- Call to Order President Jim Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Roll Call Members present were: Charlotte Bowen, Jim Hansen, John Howard, Patti Ingli, Una Kannel, Eugene Kittilson, Myrna Larrabee and Leroy Peterson. Paul Barkla, Mary Jane Grebner, Diane Rhein and Herbert Tschumperlin were excused.
- Staff & Guests Office On Aging staff Kathy Hass and Jane White were present. Two guests were in attendance: Edith Hanson and Yvonne Kulow.
- Yvonne Kulow was interviewed as a possible citizen representative candidate for the Human Services Board. The Human Services Board recommended Yvonne Kulow's appointment to the Council on Aging. Motion to approve made by Myrna Larrabee, seconded by Eugene Kittilson. **Motion carried.**
- Minutes Minutes from the December 20, 2005, meeting were mailed to the Council Members for their review. Myrna Larrabee made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by John Howard. **Motion carried.**
- Annual Report
Financial &
Program Report Kathy Hass reviewed the Office On Aging annual financial and program report for 2005.
- Kathy Hass reported that with the increase of the Pierce County's population, more services will be needed by the public with less funding available due to budget cuts. However, for the 65+ population, the carryover funds from 2005 will help us in 2006 and possibly 2007. As a result of the increased population, we are hoping that the funding will also increase. Discussion and comments from Council member followed.
- Meal Site Report The meal site report was distributed and Kathy Hass requested that the members post it at their meal sites.
- Legal Service Report Jane White reported that she is still very busy with Medicare Part D doing one-on-one consulting as well as helping individuals with problems that they are experiencing when they pick up their medications at the pharmacy. Council members were encouraged to write to their Senators and Congressman/women, to voice their opinion and/or frustration with the program.

Jane mentioned that the Medicare Part D program is complicated for most individuals to understand and as a result, there has been an increase in the SeniorCare enrollment for Pierce County. As of January 15, 2006, there are 521 Pierce County residents that enrolled in SeniorCare compared to 486 on December 16, 2005. As a result in the increase of the new applications to SeniorCare, the turn-around time for the applications to get processed is 30 days before an individual will receive their acknowledgment letter and card. Discussion and comments from Council member followed.

AAA Report

Jim Hanson did not have a report at this time. The next meeting will be held in March and he will have a report for the next Council meeting.

Kathy Hass reported that Jim Hanson's second year term for being on the AAA board expires in June 2006. Eugene Kittilson volunteered to be the next AAA Board representative and will go to the meeting in March with Jim.

Review of Council Members Terms

Jim Hanson's second 3-year term as a Council member expired at the end of 2005 and cannot be re-elected. Myrna Larrabee, Vice President, Patti Ingli, Secretary, and Una Kannel's first 3-year term also expired, but they may be re-elected. Kathy mentioned that the term limits state that members cannot serve more than two 3-year terms. Election of new Council members has been postponed until the June 2006 meeting when Jim Hanson's term as an AAA Board representative will end.

Long Term Care Reform Update

Kathy Hass reported that the West Central Wisconsin-Care Management Collaborative (WCW-CMC) was formed to develop and plan an Integrated Long-Term Care Delivery System across a nine county region (Pierce, St. Croix, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Polk and Barron Counties) working together with three private organizations:

1. Community Health Partnership: CHP has operated for 8 years as a Wisconsin Partnership Program, providing fully integrated health and long-term managed care program for elderly and physically disabled.
2. Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire: a non-profit member-governed cooperative licensed as a health maintenance organization offering primary and acute health care.
3. The Management Group: TMG works with long-term care organizations, helping design and implement managed care approaches, quality management systems and data systems. Has worked with all Wisconsin long-term care programs.

A planning implementation grant of \$250,000 has been awarded to develop a two phase implementation plan for a fully integrated long-term care delivery system, complete planning over 2006; region-wide implementation of core programs starting in summer of 2007, and Pierce and St. Croix may serve as pilot counties.

The goal is to eliminate waiting lists in 5 years – over 100 eligible citizens are awaiting services in Pierce County today (of those 100 eligible citizens, 60 are adults), reduce reliance on nursing homes, and provide easy access through Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

The services that would be provided through the Integrated Delivery System are long-term care, acute and primary healthcare, and mental health/substance abuse services. Discussion and comments from Council members followed.

Kathy Hass mentioned that the Senior Statesmanship Program will be held April 24-27, 2006, in Madison. Tuition is \$375 per person and includes three nights' lodging at the Inn on the Park in Madison, five meals and all training materials. Kathy or Jane White has more information or can help one register for the program if interested.

Other Business

Myrna Larrabee reported that the Senior Statesmanship Program produces graduates with a good understanding of the state government and the role seniors can play in the legislative process. They develop the skills necessary to continue their own advocacy efforts back in their communities.

Eugene Kittilson mentioned that the movie “Almost Home” was to air on February 21st at 8 p.m. on PBS. Shot on location in a nursing home, ALMOST HOME tells real stories of aging -- an intimate, thought-provoking look at the way we approach aging today: couples bonded and divided by disability, children torn between caring for their aging parents and their own families, attendants doing unsavory work for poverty wages and a visionary nursing home director committed to changes that could shuck the nursing home stigma.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on **May 2, 2006**. Please note the change in the meeting date as it was original scheduled for April 25, 2006.

Next Meeting

Eugene Kittilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Howard. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jane White

MINUTES
Pierce County Council on Aging
May 9, 2006

- Call to Order President Jim Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Roll Call Members present were: Charlotte Bowen, Mary Jane Grebner, Jim Hanson, John Howard, Patti Ingli, Eugene Kittilson, Yvonne Kulow, Ron Lockwood, Don Rohl and Herbert Tschumperlin. Una Kannel, Myrna Larrabee and Diane Rhein were excused.
- Staff & Guests Office On Aging staff Kathy Hass and Jane White were present. A guest, Edith Hanson was in attendance.
- Minutes Minutes from the February 21, 2006, meeting were mailed to the Council Members for their review. Eugene Kittilson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by John Howard. **Motion carried.**
- Aging Network History Kathy Hass reviewed the Aging Network History and explained the increase in Pierce County's population from 1990 to 2000, reviewed the 2006 Federal/State Budget and funding and the County Budget process for 2007.
- Annual Report Financial & Program Report Meal Site Report Kathy Hass reviewed the Office On Aging 2006 Financial and Program Report through April 2006. Kathy explained the programs that are available to people 60 years of age and older. Discussion and comments from Council members followed.
- Legal Service Report The meal site report was distributed and Kathy Hass requested that the members post it at their meal sites.
- Jane White reported that the Medicare Part D deadline will not be extended past May 15, 2006, and that her schedule is completely booked with appointments through May 15, 2006. Anyone calling the office and wishing to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one consult were being referred to the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Elder Law Center or they were informed that they can enroll in Wisconsin SeniorCare before June 30, 2006, to avoid the penalty for Medicare Part D and to schedule a one-on-one consult starting November 15, 2006. Wisconsin SeniorCare is receiving about 400 applications a day – compared with an average of about 63 a day one year ago.
- Jane also reported that as of the last 65+ Census that was taken, there were approximately 3,539 residents in Pierce County. As of April 18, 2006, 2,439 residents were enrolled into a Medicare Part D plan, 560 residents

were enrolled in SeniorCare leaving approximately 540 residents possibly without any drug coverage. Discussion and comments from Council member followed.

AAA Report

Jim Hanson attended the AAA meeting in La Crosse and reported that AgeAdvantAge invites counties to apply for the “Special Projects Grant” in order to “Improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of local, county, state and Ho-Chunk Nation programs that assist seniors to live healthful lives in dignity and respect in the least restrictive environment.” AAA hopes to encourage new, “out of the box” thinking. An award of up to \$20,000 will be made to the successful proposal.

Kathy Hass is in the process of writing the grant proposal describing how the \$20,000 grant would be used for Pierce County residents. The grant would be used for home and bathroom modifications using a variety of adaptive aids designed to prevent falls, add stability, and make activities of daily living easier. Modifications to homes can be the most cost effective way to help older people as they grow older and face the added challenges of remaining in their own homes. Falls are the most common accident around the home and can be prevented by something as simple as grab bars and handrails. With so many elderly having joint replacements, arthritis and other mobility problems, we hope to make home life much easier and enjoyable for 50 to 100 people in Pierce County.

Senior Statesman Program Report

Modifications could be as simple as adding a few grab bars and handrails, or more costly changes such as handicapped toilet installations and bathtub, vanity and shower changes or threshold ramps. We will take referrals from social workers and home care workers as well as family members. We have a local handyman that will do many of the modifications for a reasonable fee, or we will offer families an amount to buy equipment if they have someone that could do the installation. We will ask families for donations toward the cost of modifications, but will not deny anyone needing this service if they can not or will not make a donation. “People in Business Care” will be a third-party participant and are willing to accept and consider funding applications for home repairs when the \$20,000 grant ends. Discussion and comments from Council member followed.

Long Term Care Reform Update

Eugene Kittilson attended the Senior Statesman Program in April and reported that it was an excellent experience and would like to attend the Graduate Program. Wisconsin's original Senior Statesman Program began in 1980 and was created to educate senior citizens about state government, the legislative process, and being an effective advocate. You learn how a bill becomes a law, sit in on legislative floor sessions, attend hearings, visit state agencies including the Legislative Reference Bureau, Fiscal Bureau, the Bureau on Aging and Long Term Care Resources, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC), the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office and learn how to become effective advocates on the issues that concern them.

Kathy Hass reported that an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Planning/Development Group has been formed and will meet on Tuesday, May 30, 2006, at the Pierce County Office Building. Kathy, Jane White, Eugene Kittilson and Yvonne Kulow have agreed to be on this planning/development group. The objective

for the formation of this group is to receive and analyze information about the potential for developing an ADRC to serve the citizens of Pierce County. This group consists of professional staff, consumers, and members of boards or committees all of whom are stakeholders relative to the potential development of an ADRC.

Barron County ADRC

Vide

The goal is to eliminate waiting lists in 5 years – over 100 eligible citizens are awaiting services in Pierce County today (of those 100 eligible citizens, 60 are adults), reduce reliance on nursing homes, enhance already existing services including information and assistance (I&A) but eliminate duplication between different agencies, and to provide better access, especially for the people with physical disabilities as there is no central place in the county to go for information. Discussion and comments from Council members followed.

Election of Council On Aging President

Other Business

The Council viewed a video about the Barron County Aging and Disability Resource Center. Discussion and comments from Council members followed. This video will be available at the Office On Aging if anyone wishes to view it.

Next Meeting

Adjournment

Election of Council On Aging President was held. A unanimous ballot was cast for Eugene Kittilson. Herbert Tschumperlin made a motion to approve, seconded by John Howard. **Motion carried.**

Council On Aging thanked Jim Hanson for his hard work and dedication to the Council. He will be greatly missed.

Council On Aging will also review the By-Laws and make any necessary updates as appropriate.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on **July 25, 2006.**

Herbert Tschumperlin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eugene Kittilson. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane White

MINUTES
Pierce County Council on Aging
October 10, 2006

- Call to Order Acting President Eugene Kittilson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Roll Call Members present were: Charlotte Bowen, Mary Jane Grebner, Eugene Kittilson, Yvonne Kulow, Myrna Larrabee, Ron Lockwood, Don Rohl and Herbert Tschumperlin. John Howard, Patti Ingli, Una Kannel and Diane Rhein were excused.
- Staff & Guests Office On Aging staff Kathy Hass and Jane White were present.
- Minutes Minutes from the August 1, 2006, meeting were mailed to the Council Members for their review. A suggestion was made by Corporate Counsel to edit the sentence regarding “the County’s budget will not be approved until the September 21, 2006, Human Service Board meeting” to “The County’s portion of the Office On Aging budget will not be approved until the September 21, 2006, Human Service Board meeting”. Myrna Larrabee made a motion to change the sentence and approved the minutes, seconded by Ron Lockwood. **Motion carried.**
- Public Hearing For 2007-2008 Plan & Budget No comments received, therefore, no changes were made to the draft plan and budget, and the draft plan was approved as submitted.
- Financial & Program Reports & Reporting Requirements for 2007 Kathy Hass reviewed the Office On Aging 2006 Financial and Program Report through September 2006. Discussion and comments from Council members followed.
- Meal Site Report The meal site report was distributed and Kathy Hass requested that the members post it at their meal sites.
- Legal Service Report Jane White reported that as of September 30, 2006, there were 708 Pierce County residents enrolled in SeniorCare. Jane mentioned that if the SeniorCare program ends on June 30, 2007, those participants will have 63 days to enroll into Medicare Part D without a penalty.
- Jane mentioned that effective September 1, 2006, Wisconsin Medicaid will enforce the previously published coordination of benefits policy for SeniorCare participants who are also enrolled in Medicare Part D. Providers will be required to submit claims for SeniorCare participants who are enrolled in a Medicare Part D PDP to the participant’s PDP and other health insurance sources before submitting claims to SeniorCare. SeniorCare is the payer of last resort. This has caused a lot of confusion for the SeniorCare participants who are affected by this because they were not aware that they were auto-enrolled into a Medicare Part D PDP. Those that are affected can stay with the Medicare Part D PDP plan if they choose to do so, and for some, it will actually benefit them because their co-pays for their prescriptions will be less than what they pay for a co-pay under SeniorCare.
- Jane also reported that in early August, due to a Medicare processing error, roughly 230,000 people received refunds for their drug plan or Medicare Advantage plan premiums in their August 2006 Social Security benefit checks or direct deposit. People whose plan premiums were mistakenly refunded will not lose any of their Medicare coverage. However, Medicare needs to re-collect the money that was refunded in error. There are three options or repayment:
1. Return the check by writing VOID on the face of the check and mail it to Medicare.
 2. Send a personal check or money order for the amount of the overpayment to Medicare.
 3. Have Medicare directly debit the overpayment amount from a personal bank account.
 4. Request to pay in monthly installments over as many as seven months.

The number of Pierce County residents is unknown. However, Jane did report that she received 4 phone calls in regards to the issue.

Discussion and comments from Council members followed.

Eugene Kittilson reported that he attended the 2-day meeting in Baraboo. There were 14 people coming off of the AAA board and 14 people inducted on to the AAA Board. It was an enjoyable experience – received and learned a lot of information and met some very interesting people.

Eugene attended the Senior Statesman held on September 15, 2006. He will be attending the reunion on October 25, 2006, at The Coachman Supper Club in Baldwin.

AAA Report

Eugene reported that Jim Hanson, former president of the Council On Aging, was asked to go on the Advisory Council for AAA.

Eugene also reported on the 2006-2008 Proposed Legislative Platform in regards to the State and Federal's priorities and issues. Discussion and comments from Council members followed.

Kathy Hass talked about what is the managed long-term care expansions initiative, why reform Wisconsin's long-term care system, and the implementation of the expansion.

Kathy mentioned that there are so many unknowns in regards to the funding of an ADRC that are being worked on and what other counties are experiencing in trying to get an ADRC started.

There will be another meeting to be held on October 16, 2006, for the neighboring counties to report their suggestions and decisions. Pierce County is only a few month's away from knowing what will happen.

Update on Long Term Care Reform, Care Management, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center

The goal is to eliminate waiting lists in 5 years – over 100 eligible citizens are awaiting services in Pierce County today (of those 100 eligible citizens, 60 are adults), reduce reliance on nursing homes, enhance already existing services including information and assistance (I&A) but eliminate duplication between different agencies, and to provide better access, especially for the people with physical disabilities as there is no central place in the county to go for information.

Discussion and comments from Council members followed.

Herbert Tschumperlin's second 3-year term is expired. He has a replacement in mind and will let Kathy Hass know who his replacement will be before the next meeting.

Election of officers was held – nominations were made for Eugene Kittilson for President, Myrna Larrabee for Vice President, and Patti Ingli for Secretary. Ron Lockwood made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Herbert Tschumperlin. Motion to approve made by Myrna Larrabee, seconded by Yvonne Kulow. **Motion carried.**

Election of Officers

The next meeting of this committee will be held on **January 9, 2007.**

Myrna Larrabee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron Lockwood. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane White

Next Meeting

Adjournment