



MEETING MINUTES

Commission on Aging

Thursday, September 6, 2018 at ~7pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Alan Factor, Dave Sutor, William Green, Dorothy Strong, Bonnie Lockhart, Mark Payares, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Rick Gergerian, Marcia Achenbach, Tom Giller, Catherine O'Brien, Litrea Hunter, Jeanie Ramsey, and Louise Love

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager; Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant

Guests: Doreen Price

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of July 5, 2018

The COA minutes from July 5, 2018 were approved with minor changes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Frank Fennell and Mr. Mark Payares were warmly welcomed to the Commission and provided brief introductions. Two additional new members, Ms. Litrea Hunter and Ms. Jeanie Ramsey, were unable to attend this evening's meeting but will hopefully join the Commission at the October meeting. In addition to introductions made in-person at today's meeting, new members will be emailed the biographical sketches previously collected for each Commission member.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC Chair Love was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but asked Ms. Sadler to provide an overview of the last Long-Term Care Committee meeting on August 8th, 2018 as well as the LTCC site visit on August 30th, 2018.

1. Planning continues for the 2018 Fall Presentation, scheduled for Thursday, October 11th from 1-3pm. Chair Love secured a speaker, Ms. Loretta Downs, who will discuss advance care planning and options for end-of-life care. Flyers

for the event are in the final stages of completion and will be sent to sponsors, as well as distributed to different locations within the community.

2. LTCC members completed the third site visit of the year during a visit to Aperion Care on August 30th.
 - a. Although the facility has previously struggled with unpleasant odors, this issue was not observed by those who attended the site visit.
 - b. The facility was clean but resident rooms viewed during the tour were lacking in cozy personal details that might make the space seem more home-like.
 - c. Possible explanations for this observation were explored, including factors related to cleanliness, different standards and regulations for skilled nursing facilities versus assisted or independent living facilities, the limited personal needs allowance for residents on public aid, and of course the small proportion of rooms viewed during the tour that might not have been representative of all residents' living quarters.
 - d. Overall, it appeared to LTCC members that Aperion Care is embarking on a positive arc of upgrading its facilities and ensuring a high level of care to its residents, most of whom have lived there for years.
3. Ms. Sadler reviewed recent activities by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in Evanston long-term care communities since the last Commission meeting on July 5th.
 - a. IDPH visited The Grove on July 10, 2018 on a complaint, but there were no findings and no additional information regarding the nature of the complaint. IDPH has also issued a Civil Money Penalty (CMP) of \$13,500 related to tags the facility sustained during a February 2018 visit related to improper pressure ulcer treatment.
 - b. Symphony has also received multiple visits from IDPH beginning in June with a complaint that yielded three tags for deficiencies in the living environment and cleanliness, fall prevention, and notifying physicians. A revisit to the facility for these issues in July 2018 warranted six additional tags, two of which were later deleted.
 - c. Dobson Plaza's annual health survey conducted on July 12th, 2018 yielded no tags or deficiencies. Ms. Sadler was invited to sit in on the resident meeting during the survey process and all participants expressed satisfaction with their care.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force: Age-Friendly Business Initiative

1. Ms. Strong apprised Commission members of recent progress by the Age-Friendly Business Initiative (AFBI) in developing a single checklist for businesses to use in gauging their age-friendliness.
 - a. The invitation to businesses to garner interest in the project is slated to roll out on October 1st along with a press release. Businesses that achieve Age-Friendly Business status will be featured at the Aging Well Conference on May 3rd, 2019.
 - b. Volunteers are needed to serve as secret shoppers and to meet with businesses that have already completed the checklist to determine what additional steps can be taken to improve accessibility to older adults.

- c. Trainings for volunteers are scheduled for September 25th from 10am to noon and September 26th from 4-6pm. There is a third date pending for those who are interested but unable to attend the other two training dates.
- d. Volunteers will be afforded the opportunity to select their availability to allow for flexibility in scheduling.
- e. Ms. Thompson noted that she spoke with Ms. Grant at Evanston Township High School (ETHS) about working with students to develop an app to help users locate accessible parking. Additionally, businesses working toward achieving Age-Friendly Business status will be able to work with students to update their websites to make them more accessible to older adults, as this is one of the items on the AFBI checklist.
- f. Ms. Thompson also suggested ongoing events to serve as incentive for businesses to participate in the initiative, including selecting a business each quarter for police and fire department personnel to serve food to patrons, which would boost business as well as community ties to first responders.

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force: Housing Committee

1. Mr. Factor noted that the grant application for a feasibility study has been submitted to the Evanston Community Fund. This study would help determine the housing needs of the community with specific focus on older adults with moderate or lower incomes; the Commission on Aging previously approved a letter of support for this application.
 - a. The committee's next meeting will focus on options to raise additional funds to cover the remaining cost of the study, as the \$7,500 grant would not cover the full cost.
 - b. The grant determination is expected in October 2018.

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force: Dementia-Friendly Committee

1. Ms. Lockhart mentioned that Dementia-Friendly enjoyed a brief hiatus in the month of August but will resume meeting this month. The committee hopes to develop a survey to learn more about what people already know (or think they know) about dementia. Once this information is gathered, the committee will be able to tailor upcoming educational and training opportunities.
2. Mr. Factor noted that the committee still plans to expand the focus groups to include a more diverse population.
3. The Evanston committee intends to meet with Dementia-Friendly River Forest to learn about their efforts in their own community.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur led the Commission in thanking Ms. Strong for her services over the past six years as she departs from the Commission, presenting her with a certificate of appreciation.
2. Chair Signatur reminded attendees that her two-year term as Chair is coming to an end soon. She will appoint a nominating committee to make a list of potential candidates for the role; during October's meeting, Commission members will vote

on the next Chair from the slate of candidates, though additional nominees will also be considered.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

1. Mr. Factor shared information from a senior housing newsletter that explored expansion of Medicaid services to help cover the cost of home modifications in an attempt to minimize rehospitalizations and emergency room visits for older adults.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. Attendees were reminded of the upcoming CEU presentation by the Illinois Pioneer Coalition on Staff Recruitment and Retention. The event is slated to take place on Wednesday, September 26th from 9:30am-11:30am at Westminster Place/Presbyterian Homes.
2. The Ombudsman office's Annual Services Plan (ASP) was submitted; the office has already doubled benchmark goals in several realms, such as individual consultations.
 - a. The State-directed initiative for FY2019 activities center around Resident Councils, including working with staff liaisons so they better understand their role and ensure Councils are resident-led. Additionally, Ombudsmen are encouraged to meet with residents and Council Presidents to discuss resident roles when it comes to the Council activities.
 - b. The local initiative for FY2019 includes making fewer total facility visits but making each visit more meaningful by meeting with newer residents. Goals for Ombudsmen include using the facility census to determine which residents were admitted since the last Regular Presence visit and meeting with around 50% of the new admissions to explain the Ombudsman program.
3. As noted above, the LTCC Fall Presentation on Thursday, October 11th will focus on advance care planning, end-of-life care, and advance directives. In addition, the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) will be hosting two workshops for Powers of Attorney and Living Wills; one event will occur at Walchirk apartments (subsidized senior housing) on November 1st and the other will take place at the Levy Center on November 9th. Both events will be open to the community, but do require pre-registration.
4. Ms. Thompson apprised members of a new program offered through CJE for individuals who do not qualify for the Community Care Program (CCP), which helps older adults who might otherwise need nursing home care to remain in their own homes by providing in-home and community-based services.

- a. The CCP has an asset limit of \$17,500 for a household of one, but no income limit; however, the CJE program has an income limit of \$24,000 and asset limit of \$50,000.
 - b. Under the CJE program, qualifying individuals would pay between \$4 and \$7 per hour toward their caregiver's hourly rate, and CJE would pay the balance.
5. A flyer advertising a dementia-friendly cruise taking place on October 2nd from 12:30-3pm was circulated. The event is free for the first 70 individuals who sign up, but \$60 for the care partner.
 6. The Evanston Public Library is starting a Memory Café, slated to occur on the third Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. The Levy Center also hosts a Memory Café on the first Friday of every month from 1-3pm.
 7. Volunteers are needed to staff the Ombudsman's auxiliary office once Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler move into their prospective new office space at the Civic Center. Services offered through the Levy location will include assistance with SHIP counseling, Benefit Access and Evanston Benefit Card applications, questions regarding Medicare/Medicaid services, etc.
 8. Attendees were apprised of a news article in the Chicago Tribune regarding staff members who allegedly stole \$600,000 from a resident of an assisted living facility in Chicago.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The farmer's market's Not-For-Profit Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 8th; volunteers to staff the Commission's table are still needed throughout the day.
2. Ms. Thompson provided the Commission with an update on the City's priority-based budgeting process.
 - a. Each City department has been asked to provide information on social service programs they provide, including demographics of individuals served, to be submitted to department heads.
 - i. This information will be used to determine how each program can be managed, if there are duplicate services being offered, and how to coordinate services and maximize efficiency.
 - b. Updates will be provided as they are received.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Attendees were encouraged to peruse the calendar for upcoming community events.
2. The Commission's workplan was reviewed; this document is updated every two years and outlines rules and expectations for members.
 - a. An ad hoc committee is needed to review and update the workplan so that the Commission can vote on it by the end of the year.
3. Members were encouraged to consider potential subcommittees for the Commission, as the Long-Term Care Committee is currently the Commission's only subcommittee; suggestions are welcome!

4. A motion to change the November 1st Commission meeting to the following week, November 8th, was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mr. Sutor mentioned that the Evanston Police Department has been actively recruiting for a new Chief in preparation of Chief Eddington's retirement in December 2018. Mr. Sutor noted that the Commission might find it beneficial to weigh in on the process to ensure items of importance to older adults were being taken into consideration by the candidates.
 - a. Ms. Thompson explained that there was a public meeting held on September 5th, in which community members provided such feedback. (Note: more information regarding this meeting can be found here: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/police/police-chief>).
2. Mr. Green reminded Commission members that he is in need of volunteers to help older adults with tax preparation services beginning in February 2019. Training will be provided, and is slated to begin in November/December 2018. Interested parties are encouraged to contact him for more information.
3. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, October 4th. The LTCC will **not** meet in October, and will reconvene on Wednesday, November 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant