MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, September 5, 2019 at ~7pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Mary Signatur, Dave Sutor, Litrea Hunter, Bonnie Lockhart, Lonnie Wilson (via phone), Jeanie Ramsey, and Tom Giller

Members Absent: Rick Gergerian, Mark Payares, Catherine O'Brien, and Frank Fennell

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

Guests: Jennifer Kihm, Mather LifeWays

Presiding Member: Alan Factor, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER
Mr. Lonnie Wilson was welcomed to the Commission on Aging via phone call. Members provided brief introductions and Mr. Wilson gave a short overview of his background as well.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of July 11, 2019
The COA minutes from July 11th, 2019 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)
1. Sadly, Ms. Love recently tendered her resignation as COA Vice Chair and LTCC Chair. Ms. Litrea Hunter has been asked to take the helm as LTCC Chair; updates are forthcoming.
2. The Committee continues to plan the 2019 Fall Presentation, slated for Thursday, September 26th from 1-3pm at the Levy Center.
3. LTCC members attended a site visit at Alden Estates on August 22\textsuperscript{nd}, during which they were treated to a facility tour and Q&A session with the Administrator. The next site visit will be at Dobson Plaza in November.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force: Dementia-Friendly Evanston (DFE)

1. At the last meeting in August, DFE members discussed an upcoming event on November 9\textsuperscript{th} at the Evanston Public Library, developing a flyer and drafting an agenda for the event to include not only a panel of speakers but also informational tables.

2. Both Ms. Thompson and Ms. Cherco attended the Mayor’s caucus earlier in the day, during which expanded initiatives for dementia resources were discussed. One of the speakers slated to present at the November 9\textsuperscript{th} meeting was at the caucus as well.
   a. Ms. Thompson noted that two memory cafes have returned funds they previously received from AgeOptions; Ms. Thompson noted that she intends to look into securing these funds for the two memory cafes located in Evanston.

3. Chair Factor noted that a new position as dementia coordinator has opened at the Illinois Department of Public Health. Additionally, there has been a push for increased housing options for individuals with dementia, with 400 units in existing assisted living facilities being allocated for residents with dementia diagnoses. Although some of these units are in Cook County, none are in Evanston.

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

1. Ms. Thompson reminded attendees that during the month of July, Evanston community members were encouraged to participate in an online survey to provide feedback on the age-friendliness of local businesses participating in the AFBI.
   a. Three survey respondents won $50 gift certificates to the Age-Friendly Business of their choosing.
   b. The business with the most respondents, Argentium Care, will be featured in a promotional video distributed to Evanston residents.
   c. Some businesses in the AFBI did not receive enough survey responses to determine whether they are truly age-friendly; Ms. Thompson will be asking the Senior Services Intern, Ms. Lea Adolphs, to visit these businesses to confirm their age-friendliness, but all COA members are encouraged to provide their feedback from past and new experiences at these businesses as well. Ms. Sadler will email COA (and LTCC) members the link to the online survey.

Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force: Affordable Housing
1. The next Housing meeting is scheduled for September 24, at which time members will discuss the feasibility study as well as what will happen with the affordable housing committee once the AFE grant ends at the end of December 2019.

2. Current members hope the committee will be absorbed by an entity with a specific focus on the housing needs of older adults, but it was suggested that if they were to be taken in by a more age-neutral group, perhaps a sub-committee could be formed to address the specific needs of older adults in the community.

CHAIR REPORT
No Chair Report this month.

VICE CHAIR REPORT
No Vice Chair report this month.

STAFF REPORT
1. LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson reminded COA members of the need for volunteers for the Farmer’s Market this weekend to discuss items of interest to older adults as well as represent the COA.

2. Ms. Sadler provided information on activities by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in Evanston’s long-term care facilities since the last meeting.
   a. The Ombudsman office was made aware that IDPH was at Presbyterian Homes for an Annual Health Survey on September 3 but no results from the survey have yet been released. Additionally, the OMB office was contacted about a complaint investigation at Albany Care at the end of June involving an immediate discharge notice that Ms. Sadler was providing assistance in appealing. Ms. Sadler will provide updates on the results of these visits when they are made available.
   b. In addition to the new IDPH activities, Ms. Sadler noted that The Grove had received a visit from IDPH back in July in response to four complaints; of those complaints, one yielded a single tag/citation related to a failure by the facility to properly assess and notify a resident’s physician regarding a resident’s change in baseline condition. This resulted in a resident being sent to the emergency room for abnormal labs; he was later intubated in the ICU and ultimately passed away.
      i. Ms. Sadler recently received an update on this citation: IDPH is levying a Civil Money Penalty (CMP) of over $22,000 against the facility related to this tag.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
1. Ms. Kimberly Richardson presented the findings from the Social Services Core Committee to the City Council in July; during this meeting, Ms. Thompson was questioned about her role when the changes are implemented in 2020.
   a. The City of Evanston’s Social Service departments will be reorganized, with the current Ombudsman office moving from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) department to Health and Human Services. Additionally, a new Regional Ombudsman will be hired to focus solely on nursing homes in Evanston, with Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler changing focus to Senior Services more broadly. These changes are expected to occur in January 2020.

NEW BUSINESS
1. Continuing discussion from the last meeting, attendees considered options for changing the Commission’s meeting time to earlier in the day. It was suggested that COA meetings continue to take place on the first Thursday of each month (other than the month of August, or when otherwise specified) but to begin at 4pm. A voice vote was taken on this proposal, with all parties in agreement on the time change.

COMMUNICATIONS
1. The Commission’s October meeting will occur on Thursday, October 3 at 4pm at the Levy Center, and will feature a presentation by Ms. Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant