MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, October 3, 2019 at ~4pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Mary Signatur, Dave Sutor, Litrea Hunter, Lonnie Wilson, Jeanie Ramsey, Mark Payares, Catherine O'Brien, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Rick Gergerian, Bonnie Lockhart, Tom Giller, and Alan Factor

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

Guests: Jennifer Kihm, Mather LifeWays; King and Felicia Kaplan, community members; Avi Kaufman, North Shore Senior Center

Presiding Member: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Ms. Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER
Mr. Lonnie Wilson was welcomed to the Commission on Aging for his first in-person meeting; he attended the September meeting via phone. Members provided brief introductions and Mr. Wilson gave a short overview of his background as well.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of September 5, 2019
The COA minutes from September 5th, 2019 were approved as written.

PRESENTATION by Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager
Ms. Richardson provided an update on Social Services within the City of Evanston, including upcoming changes to the manner in which services are delivered and the process by which those changes were designed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)
1. The Long-Term Care Committee, along with support from the Commission on Aging, hosted its annual Fall Presentation on September 26th. There were approximately 65 attendees and feedback thus far has been overwhelmingly positive. More details on the results of the evaluations and suggestions for next year’s event will be discussed at the next LTCC and COA meetings.

2. The October LTCC meeting has been canceled; the November meeting will take place at 2:30pm on Thursday, November 14th at the Levy Center. Those who wish to attend the fourth and final site visit of the year are welcome to go directly to Dobson Plaza after the LTCC meeting.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force (AFE): Dementia-Friendly Evanston (DFE) and Age-Friendly Business Initiative (AFBI)

1. The upcoming meeting on November 26th at 2pm marks the final meeting for AFE.

2. Ms. Thompson noted that although Argentium Care was slated to absorb Age-Friendly’s Dementia Friendly efforts, the organization has been acquired by Chicago Methodist Senior Services and DFE will now move to a City program under the Senior Services umbrella. Similarly, Transportation and AFBI will remain under the City’s jurisdiction.
   a. DFE information is being transferred from Argentium Care’s website to the City’s to provide more information on the Dementia Friendly movement.
   b. DFE is hosting an event entitled, “Facing Dementia: Exploring Our Resources” on Saturday, November 9th at the Evanston Public Library. All are welcome to attend; registration is available on the City’s website or by calling 847-866-2919.

CHAIR REPORT

No Chair Report this month as Chair Factor was absent for today’s meeting.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No Vice Chair report this month.

STAFF REPORT

1. LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson mentioned that Three Crowns Park recently closed a portion of the building (Pioneer Place), which required residents in that particular neighborhood to move to different areas of the building. Ombudsman staff checked in with residents during the transition period and no complaints were voiced about the moves.

2. Ms. Thompson divulged that both Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitative Facilities (SMHRFs) in Evanston have shown an increase in systemic complaints and issues pertaining to Involuntary Discharges/Transfers.
a. Residents currently being admitted to these facilities typically have more significant behavioral and mental health needs than those previously residing in the same buildings when they were operating under Intermediate Care licenses.

b. Ms. Thompson has been in touch with the new State Ombudsman, Kelly Richards, to discuss when Ombudsmen do not get involved in taking cases on behalf of SMHRF residents, particularly in the case of involuntary discharges when the resident being discharged might place others at the facility at risk if they were allowed to return.

c. SMHRFs have also seen their populations skew more toward younger residents, as there are fewer older adults being admitted. SMHRFs have restrictions on the number of residents who can live in the facility once they are past a certain age, and this means that as residents age and/or develop health issues, they are more likely to be transferred to nursing home settings or otherwise transitioned out of the facilities.

d. Ms. Thompson revealed that even when an appeal for an Involuntary Discharge is won by the resident/Ombudsman, IDPH cannot force the facility to take the resident back.

3. Ms. Thompson provided an update on the Ombudsman program’s Annual Services Plan, which will cover October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.
   a. Ms. Thompson was able to gain approval to decrease the number of expected OMB volunteers as well as staff members in response to the City’s Social Service changes that will see Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler taking on more Senior Services-related roles with a separate Regional Ombudsman whose sole focus will be on nursing homes.
   b. Next year’s focus will be on Care Plans in facilities, as many residents are still unaware of what their Care Plans entail and/or are not participating in their development.

4. 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 combination Annual Health and Complaint Survey conducted at Presbyterian Homes starting on September 5th yielded three tags for the Annual but no deficiencies for the complaint, so no more details were available on the nature of the complaint.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

COMMUNICATIONS
1. The Commission’s November meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7 at 4pm at the Levy Center.
2. As noted earlier, the Long-Term Care Commission will meet on November 14 at 2:30pm and transition to the site visit at Dobson Plaza immediately following the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 5:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant