

BENZIE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 19 2015

Chair Beverly Holbrook called the meeting to order at 4:34 Ron gave the Prayer of Invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Roll Call: Present: Beverly Holbrook, Bob McQuilkin, Ron Dykstra, Rosemary Russell, Jane Elzerman, Donna Malecki, and Ann Dawe. Excused Denise Favreau and Neil Haugen. Also present were Dawn S. Roger Griner, and Frank Walterhouse Commissioners.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of July 15, 2015 as corrected was given by Jane and supported by Bob. All ayes, motion carried to approve the previous minutes.

Public Input-public suggestion box is empty and no public members are present at this time.

**Finance Committee:** Jane reviewed the minutes from the finance committee. A copy of the narrative was given to the board for review. After review and some discussion of budgeted items, it was noted, we are on track with the current budget and that federal monies are being paid. There are two months left in the current budget and we are on track. The new budget has been submitted to the county and we are now in the waiting process to have our new budget approved by the county. A motion to approve the financials was given by Ron; and seconded by Bob. All ayes being heard, motion was carried and approved.

### **Information Items**

#### **A. Directors Report: July/August**

- Doug's report was given. He told us that we are finished with Pam Evans from Northsky and our next step is to put together a Planning Committee consisting of board members. Doug has met with 44 North Insurance and the rates for insurance are going up. He has taken time to look into a plan that will provide our employees with the smallest increase and provide a HRA to help offset these increased costs.
- The GT Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has given us a grant to purchase 200 5 day emergency shelf stable food boxes to be given to our HDM clients. These boxes are to be used if we are not able to provide meals for a number of days due to inclement weather. We will be able to provide an additional 1,200 meals. The Doreen Carter Animal Welfare League is now providing excess pet food to us and other supplies to assist some of our low income seniors with pet food for their pets. We now have some pet food that is available that our Meals on Wheels delivery personal can monitor during meal routes and see if they incur elders who need pet food for their animals. As this program progresses it will also include Ban Field Veterinarian assistance. Doug is working this program we may be able to ask Jeff if he can lump this into his current assessment at the start of services for our elders. The program is just in its infancy but it is exciting.
- Township Report Our programming is continuing to go up monthly; usually by double digits. According to Dawn S. we are currently servicing at least 1/5 of our senior population. Dawn is continuing to monitoring the data base and percentage of seniors we are reaching. As of

October 1<sup>st</sup> she will be monitoring very closely residents being assisted per the township they reside in. This change will assist us with our programming needs in each area.

- Hoop house at Platte River Elementary. Jeff is now taking this under his wing. Lettuce and fresh vegetables are being grown for our use.
- Beverly also read out loud the new defined benefit package. For MERS. The new MERS package will reduce retirement for new staff 2.0%. The existing staff will have two tiers: The original retirement contribution at 2.25% then to reduce to 2.0% for the remainder. See Action Item for the Motion to adopt the MERS package.

#### B. Program/ Services July/August

Home Delivered Meals: 3,449 meals were provided which was up by 22% when compared to the same time last year. Congregate Meals TGP and Thompsonville have increased by 5% from 2014. Dining out has had a 46% increase since July 2014. Homemaker programming has had a 65% increase since 2013 and up 2% from last year. MMAPS with annual open enrollment for Medicare part D, Doug and the MMAPs counselors are working on an outreach program. The goal this year is to offer hours in Thompsonville, Lake Ann, and Frankfort. Watch for new information regarding this program. Guardian Medical Monitoring: we have 25 this month and 9 on a waiting list that is 3 more people this month than last. Benzie Bus Passes: 126 passes were given to clients in July 2015 which is a 10% increase from the same time last year. Senior Companion: we are currently sponsoring 4 people. We handled 555 calls in July of 2015 regarding assistance for services and questions for seniors. Senior Project Fresh: 11 more individuals were assisted this month making our total at 178 seniors using our local farmers markets. Our dental program has signed up three more clients this month for services.

C. Senior Center Updates: Dawn's report was received and our seniors are keeping very busy. Lots of fun going on this last month. Out of the 13 core activities provided at the Gathering place, 446 Seniors participated. Activity participation is up by 20% YTD when compared to the same time as last year. Our early morning breakfast with our local health expert is growing in participation. Branson trip paid 24. Word is out and COA's are making attempts to fill up the bus. We need to get to 30 for our own bus and we are potentially at 26. Fliers are available at BCCOA.

#### D. Roger Griner, County Commissioner

- The County is reviewing 3 final candidates for county administrator, the vote is early Sept.
- Maples: Not too much to tell but they are trying to get all the decision makers together; to make a decision. Not trying to assess blame; just trying to get the place open. Fire dept. is updated and has new ratings and new equipment. These changes may be able to change the current issues. Hopefully we can get it open before the middle of Sept. Levy has already been passed for the building so now it is just a matter of opening this 12.5 million dollar building. So we are not paying for an empty building. Potential waiting list of 20-30 for admission to the new building.
- Benzie County Health Department has new grant to open a new clinic for under insured or non-insured individuals in our area. The county is also working on getting a new program for the 5 wishes. Area Agency on Aging will assist with this and try to roll out some education.

- Sheriff department is now working with the schools, Department of Health and Human Services and Catholic Human Services on a new program for drug and drug prevention with our children in our schools. This program will focus on “you only have one body” and families will also be included in this program.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Fund Development: Ron 243 likes, donor news letters out prior to Thanksgiving. Holly Berry is scheduled, the Coho Festival is staffed and ready. Holiday baskets are being worked on; we need approximately 150. We need items to put in the baskets. Trinity Lutheran Church is sponsoring this and will set aside two Sundays to collect items. Please check with your local churches to see if we can get more churches to participate with this. Dec 13 is the cutoff date for collections so we may be able to put the bags together. Doug will be giving a list of stuff needed to Ron.
- Sun setter retractable awning for the building is being delayed until spring, but we are close with finances.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion was put forth by Bob for the approval of our two new board members. The motion was seconded by Rosemary, all ayes, motion carried and approved by the board for Sylvia Bennett and Ann Dawe, are now members of the board.
- Motion to adopt the new MERS retirement package was made by Bob, Seconded by Donna. Roll Call: Beverly Holbrook, yes. Bob McQuilken Yes. Ron Dykstra, Yes. Jane Elizerman, Yes. Donna Malecki, Yes. Ann Dawe, Yes. Motion carried and approved.
- Planning Committee - Who wants to be on this committee? Donna wants to be on the committee when she is off the finance committee. Sylvia - Can we ask her to be on the finance committee? Bev will ask her if she would consider being on the finance committee. Board members who have interest included: Ann, Rosemary, Donna, and Bev.

#### ROUND TABLE:

- Roger Griner would like to see if the two boards Benzie Home Health and BCCOA could have a meeting to look into more efficient services for Benzie County Seniors. This meeting would be to ensure there is no duplication of services as well as ideas for ensuring that all senior residents of Benzie County are afforded the care they need. Doug and the Officers of the board are to work with Benzie Home Care to put a date on the schedule for this meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Russell, Board Member

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

4:30pm

The Gathering Place

Honor, Michigan 49640

DRAFT