

Minutes
Fox Valley Advocacy Coalition
Tuesday, February 13, 2017

Members Present:

Amie Bastien	Outagamie County Aging
Tim Carey	Disability Voice
Jill Gretzinger	Easter Seals Wisconsin
Mike Hipple	Wisconsin AAC
John Meissner	Options for Independent Living
Harriet Redman	Wisconsibs
Terry Schmeckpeper	LSS Caregiver Support
Leann Stein	SOAR Fox Cities
Andy	Caregiver/Morning Star

- I. Introductions
- II. Minutes - Approved as written.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Leann reported there is \$242.92 in the treasury and a check from InstaPrint waiting to be deposited back for the double billing for brochures.
- IV. Announcements/Correspondence
 - Leann shared a flyer on the upcoming K.I.T.E. Conference organized by SOAR Fox Cities, DSAW and Wisconsibs. This conference has topics of interest to those connected to the disability community.
 - Thompson Center on Lourdes has new automatic doors and will soon be a meal site for the noon meals program.
 - March 20 is Disability Day at the state capitol. This is an opportunity for individuals to meet with their legislators about issues of concern to them.
 - Jill shared a flyer with the 2018 schedule of the Guardian Assistance Program in Outagamie County.
 - Tim noted the challenges he has encountered in hiring nurses to work in his home. He will be looking into changing from IRIS to Family Care and was looking for any feedback.
 - Harriet announced her organization, Wisconsibs, has an upcoming event. Vegas Madness will be held March 9 at the Timber Rattler's Stadium. You

can buy tickets the day of the event or get a price break by purchasing ahead of time. It will be a fun night with an Elvis Impersonator.

V. Agenda Items

- Group discussed at length issues involved in caregiving and any role the Coalition may have to work toward improvement on any of the issues discussed.
 - Caregiver Dialogue held January 29 was well attended by members of the coalition. Topics from that dialogue included: 1) the lack of social connections for the caregiver, 2) the struggle to find, pay and accept the need for respite care and 3) tools caregivers can use in the caregiving role.
 - Many caregivers do not self-identify themselves as caregivers. GWAAR conducted a state-wide effort to help caregivers self-identify and Terry was involved in this effort including placing messages on the local transit system.
 - Wisconsin Caregiver Alliance has tried to help employers understand the needs of caregivers and making legislators aware of the needs.
 - Sometimes helping a caregiver re-frame how they look at their role is helpful. Both Tim and Mike have parents who serve as caregivers and they gave examples of challenges involved in being caregivers.
 - Often we do not look at it from the point of view of the person receiving the care. This is a different perspective.
- Possible ways the Coalition might work on an issue in the area of caregiving:
 - Discussed the importance of educating the community on the importance and need for caregivers. There can never be too much awareness of this issue.
 - Best way of educating the community on the caregiver issue included a number of ideas.
 - Group decided we would investigate Podcasts – could we do a local video/podcast using local individuals who are caregivers to use in the education process?
 - To move this idea along each coalition member is asked to preview available podcasts/videos that relate to caregiving. Preview what you find in your area of interest (elderly caregiving, physically disabled caregiving, developmentally disabled caregiving, etc.) and send the best one or two you find to Harriet and/or Leann by April 3. They will

then preview them and pick ones that might be usable for our efforts and present them at the April 10 meeting of the Coalition.

- The group voted on the possibility of accepting the Accessible Parking Committee as a sub-committee of the Fox Valley Advocacy Coalition. Their supporting 501 ©(3) is disbanding. The group voted unanimously to accept this as a sub-committee of the Coalition.

VI. New Business

Tim reported the renewal of the website will be coming up in June. There is no cost to renew the website and the group encouraged Tim to complete the renewal. The Coalition would not have such a nice website without Tim's continued efforts.

John shared an educational tool that could be used on a vehicle visor from the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They are encouraging those who have hearing impairments to post this in their vehicles.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Coalition will be Tuesday, April 10 at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at SOAR Fox Cities at 211 E. Franklin Street, Appleton.