

## Notes

### Fox Valley Advocacy Coalition

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

#### Members Present:

Amie Bastien	Outagamie County Health and Human Services
Tim Carey	Disability Voice
Deb	Nurse
Jill Gretzinger	Easter Seals Wisconsin
Mike Hipple	Wisconsin AAC
Harriet Redman	Wisconsibs
McKenzie	Wisconsibs Intern
James	Caregiver/Morning Star

- I. Introductions
- II. Notes - No changes.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Leann reported via email the Coalition treasury stands at \$365.62.
- IV. Announcements/Correspondence
  - Amie reported many Outagamie County services are moving into the new Outagamie County Government Center this month. All visitors will be required to go through the metal detectors in the main entrance. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will be right inside the entrance.
  - Elder Abuse Presentation will be held at the Thompson Center on Lourdes at 2:00pm on June 13. The Attorney General will be one of the presenters. All are welcome.
  - Michael reported the AAC Club will be meeting in Green Bay at the Wildlife Sanctuary on Thursday June 28 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. He also noted there will be AAC school meetings held around the state – visit the Facebook page for more information.
  - Harriet noted Wisconsibs will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, June 29 from 2-6:00pm at Washington Park in Neenah. Register by calling 968-1742.
  - Jill reported SOAR Fox Cities has started a 55Plus Chat Group for caregivers. They will be meeting monthly.

- Supportive Decision Making will be the topic of a discussion on June 18 at the Mad Apple in Appleton at 6:00pm. Supportive Decision Making is an alternative to guardianship that some people are starting to explore when it is appropriate.

V. Agenda Items

- Tim noted he is still working on making changes to the FVAC website. He recently updated the website hosting and donated the cost to the group. Big thank you to Tim for all he does with the website!
- Discussed how the Coalition can narrow down our efforts in the area of the caregiving challenges in our community, state and nation.
- Caregiver issues identified:
  - Lack of professional esteem for doing the work
  - Lack of available caregivers
  - Burnout
  - Poor pay/lack of benefits
  - Caregiver turnover
- Existing efforts in our community:
  - Outagamie County Caregiver Coalition
    - Provide Caregiver Cafes
    - Annual Caregiver Conference
    - Conference in 2020
  - Lutheran Social Services Programs (Tools of Caregiving, etc.)
  - St. Paul Home
  - Life Navigators/Support Brokers
- Policy makers awareness of crisis
  - What the problem is
  - Economic Impact
  - Consequences to people/systems
  - Solutions
- After discussion of issues, existing efforts in the community, and possible ways to work toward change, group decided we would start by trying to educate policy makers about the needs of caregivers by inviting them into the home of a caregiver. Something like “A Day in the Life of a Caregiver” fashioned after “Take your Legislator to Work Day”. Our group could organize 2-hour time slots in the homes of elderly and disabled being cared for by a caregiver. Would include a wide range of ages and statistics about the issues involved in caregiving.

- Harriet noted an aid to a local representative noted his participation in the work day changed his view on the issue based on his experience that day. Experiences can be more impactful than a phone call or letter.
- Jill, Harriet, Tim and Mike will develop a model of what this would look like by the next Coalition meeting so we can decide whether or not to go forward with this first step.
- Will need to determine how we would gauge effectiveness of this effort. Ask what surprised them or what did they learn?
- A secondary benefit to this type of contact with policy makers would be to educate them about the Coalition and our ability to be a resource to them.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Coalition will be **Tuesday, August 14** at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at SOAR Fox Cities at 211 E. Franklin Street, Appleton.