



COUNCIL ON AGING NUTRITION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Aging Nutrition Advisory Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mark Richardson, for Jean Boyle, via Zoom conference, in lieu of being in person at the Council on Aging office, 3328 US Highway 51 North, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Pat Burhans, seconded by Janet Smith, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Present: (via phone call or Zoom) Robert Borremans, Patricia Burhans, Rena DeWar, Sherril Gilbertson, Vicki Gobel, Jack Kooyman, Debbie Kraus, Vicky O'Donnell, Mark Richardson, Janet Smith, and Janice Turner

Excused: Jean Boyle, Tom Brien, Karen Ferguson, Sue McGinness

Unexcused:

Staff Present: Paula Schutt, Lisa Messer, Linda Hardie

Introduction of Visitors: Amy Karas, Nutrition & Health Associates; Rodney Oksuita, Best Events

Approval of June 17, 2020 Nutrition Advisory Board Minutes: A motion was made by Janice Turner, seconded by Pat Burhans, to approve the June 17, 2020, Nutrition Advisory Board minutes. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Staff Report:

GWAAR Conference Call: Linda Hardie stated that there was a GWAAR conference call with nutrition program supervisors from around the state on June 30. Some of the topics of conversation were post-COVID food safety when dining centers re-open (making sure no one has an elevated temperature; using disposable supplies; using silverware which has been rolled in a napkin and stored in a sealed container, so the silverware is not open to the air/contamination; having hand-sanitizing stations, etc.); when dining centers should re-open (general consensus was re-openings will likely be delayed until at least January 2021); OAA (Older Americans Act) funding will likely be carried over into next year – perhaps even until June; a new Wisconsin Food Code will be released (no date set yet).

Routing Software Call: Linda spoke with a representative from a company which sells routing software, with a goal of streamlining the process of routing home delivered meals. However, after the call, it was determined that the program was not a good fit. There has been contact with a different company as a possible alternative. Debbie Kraus recommended contacting Ellen Wiegand, from Beloit Meals on Wheels, to see what program she uses.

Happenings: Hardie said that Meghan Quinn, the intern from UW-Stout, who has been an incredible help with the Senior Farmers' Market Vouchers (among other things), will complete her internship on August 14. There was inquiry as to whether serving times at the dining sites would be changed when dining centers re-open: would meals continue to be served at 11:00, as is occurring presently? Hardie answered that it is anticipated serving times will return to prior schedules once in-person dining resumes. Rodney Oksuita stated that serving times were determined in part by food delivery times, back when Best Events was initially contracted. Sherril Gilbertson inquired as to whether curbside pickup will still be available after in-person dining resumes. As of this time, there has been no guidance from the state on this topic. Also, Paula Schutt made note that both senior fairs this year have been cancelled.

New Business:

No new business to discuss.

Old Business:

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Vouchers: Linda Hardie indicated that distribution is going well. There are currently 427 names on the list (of 489 sets of vouchers available). There will be another ad in the COA newsletter; some senior centers are also including it in their newsletters. After the mail goes out today, there will have been 366 voucher packets mailed, with a postage cost of \$2.03 per packet. Initial mailing of the eligibility agreement form and postage-paid envelope in which to return the form are an additional cost, bringing the total postage cost per recipient up to approximately \$3.00. Although the desire is to connect with those individuals who need the vouchers, caution must be exercised with publicity, as there is no longer a large quantity of vouchers available.

Site Managers: There have been a few interviews, which resulted in two people who will be hired as site manager subs (both have been subbing for the program for some time). A job posting for a second Milton site manager closed on July 3.

Aging Goals: The Nutrition Program aging goal for 2020, of providing oral health presentations or screenings for 30 individuals, is on track. Linda has been in contact with Angie Stone, a speaker and advocate for oral health. Angie started her own organization, Hylife Oral Health Alliance, www.HylifeOHA.com, to promote awareness of the importance of oral health for seniors. She has agreed to do an oral health presentation, via Zoom, to facilitate meeting the aging goal. Angie has even written a book, *Dying from Dirty Teeth*. There is a possibility that her organization could provide in-home oral health screenings for homebound persons; cost of those services is currently not known. Janice Turner remarked that a lot of people don't realize the importance of oral health to overall physical health; poor oral health can cause lesions in the throat and gums, in addition to other issues; she also stated that it is difficult to find a dentist who will accept medical assistance; this is of concern, since many seniors do not have dental insurance. Mark Richardson noted that, due to the nature of his prior employment, he was aware of at least one local dentist, Dr. Timothy Cain, who had always been willing to accept

medical assistance patients. He also mentioned that issues such as heart attacks are associated with poor oral health.

Reports:

Best Events: Rodney Oksuita stated that Best Events has tightened precautionary measures during the pandemic. Of their multiple locations, there is no exchange of personnel between buildings. Best Events had a recent inspection by the Rock County Health Department; the inspector was impressed with all the precautions that were being taken. They have a COVID committee which meets twice weekly to discuss and implement procedures and protocols to ensure food safety at all their facilities. They are no longer contracted with Walworth County, but are still providing food for both the Rock County Nutrition Program and Beloit Meals on Wheels, etc. As of this time, Best Events has had no COVID cases. Beloit Meals on Wheels recently surveyed their participants, and received many positive comments. Debbie Kraus also stated that their food is good.

Nutrition & Health Associates: Amy Karas stated that she just finished the fall/winter menu cycle, and will start quarterly visits again in August. At this time, there is no place to hold a Healthy Eating class. Nutrition & Health Associates is contracted to instruct a Healthy Eating class twice per year. Lisa Messer stated that she is looking into the possibility of an online option, but there is a question as to whether an online class would meet the necessary funding requirements. Amy stated that she could do nutrition counseling sessions via phone, but the counseling recipient must be a part of the nutrition program. Referrals are made for high-risk persons. Rod offered that Pontiac Convention Center could be utilized for Healthy Eating classes; Debbie Kraus mentioned Beloit Public Library as a possible location. Lisa stated that she has been in close contact with the Rock County Health Department, and that they are not recommending any group gatherings at this time.

Dining Center Visits: none.

Home Delivered Meal Ride-Alongs: none.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Debbie Kraus, seconded by Pat Burhans, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Nutrition Advisory Board.