

**Council on Aging and Human Services**

**Board Meeting November 21, 2013**

**Present:** Director Vicki Lowe, Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Jerry Norwood, Collin Haney, Wendy Haney, Lloyd Gibbs, Vivian Pitts, Ann Alibrandi and HESCO representative Helen Rice

**Absent/Excused:** Elaine Biggieri and Betty Traquers

*Meeting Called to order at 5:00pm by Joanne Pratt*

*Minutes of October 2013, accepted as amended,*

**Budget:** We are replacing our furnace for the back of the building. The cost will be around \$4000.00. Randy said that if we don't run out of money and can hold out 'til mid-May he can do a transfer. If it gets too tight before then he said he could address it earlier. The furnace in the front of the building is the same age and model, so Vicki plans to ask for the money for that in the FY /15 budget meetings.

It is budget time of year again. The process starts in early December. In addition to money for the other furnace Vicki will be asking for \$38,000 for the generator. Vicki had a few estimates/quotes that were all over the place. Vicki had Tony Mouselli from the schools check out the building and he thinks that this quote is the best fit for the building. Vicki is going to ask that 10 hours of outreach be added to the department. This will help prepare for the growing senior population. Our state association, MCOA, has purchased a program called Benefits Check -up. You enter the clients' information and the program screens for 200 different programs. Vicki plans to seek funding for lap tops for social services so that process more efficient.

**Director's Report:** Pam has been to a few trainings along with Vicki and Ken. She is working out really well. They have been very busy with open enrollment. Ken is handling the majority of the fuel assistance applications. Noreen has been working out well doing a few hours of transportation every week with the Car-go. She has been transporting to dialysis, AA meetings, doctors and when time allows checking in on clients who are at facilities. Chris is trying to set up a trip committee meeting for December 2nd. She has organized and researched some of the ideas that were brought forth and is going to bring them to the group.

We had our Community Resource Network meeting with the school. That went very well. The school department officially knows Pam now.

Ray got into a fender bender with the van. He back up into a senior's car and damaged the back driver's side door. No one was hurt.

Our new van should be here by mid-December at the latest.

Senior Suppers have ended for the year. Joanne and friends had a nice Halloween Tea. Our Veteran's Day event went well. The Rotary brought the food and served it. They want to do this yearly if possible.

Holiday party at Lakeview has 152 paid participants. The Friends Holiday party currently has 58 signed up to attend.

The Charter school is applying for a Rotary grant to help the seniors with technology. They want to do computer classes and more. Even if they do not get the grant they plan to continue this collaboration on some level.

There is an issue with how we are implementing the Senior Tax Work off program. The IRS has been auditing towns and this is one of the three areas they are looking into. Randy Is having his analyst look at the best process and we will be changing the procedure in 2014. Workers will be subject to employee taxes and withdrawals. The state has approved the program up to \$1000.00. We will try to get that as an article at the annual town meeting.

The Weight Watchers at work Tuesdays at work will be held at 4:15 at the COA.

Helen Rice gave us the HESSCO report. She informed us that HESSCO had an audit for which they received praise. She also informed us that there was going to be a reallocation of management staff.

**Old Business:** Friends will be supporting the 'Friends holiday party' and some Sage Educational programs in 2014.

**New Business:** The Friends have reserved 2 Saturdays in January one will be a remembrance to Dick Thompson.

Motion to adjourn made by Jerry and seconded by Lloyd at 6:05 all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi