

Committee for Strategic Planning for Elderly Services

The meeting of the Strategic Planning for the Elderly Committee took place Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Senior Center conference room, 561 Main Street South.

Attendance showed the following:

Present: F. Sharon Gesek, Chairperson, John Turk, Ginni Garis and Irene O'Keefe.

Absent: Carol Boulanger

- 1) Sharon Gesek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
Minutes of the December meeting were approved by Irene, seconded Ginni; 3 in favor. Mr. Turk abstained.
- 2) Timeline-Need a report in June.
- 3) Surveys -Sharon held up the surveys (approx. 350) which now have to be collated for their results by the time a report is due in June. The focus groups are finished.
Sharon hopes to get an intern to help her or perhaps the churches or the schools would have some young people who could help. Ginni and Irene volunteered to help.
There will be a Health Fair here in the P&R space from 10-2 on May 21st.
- 4) The focus groups are finished though Sharon may do one more. She found seniors didn't differentiate between Elderly Services and the Senior Center especially in Grace Meadows. They know she does Rent Relief and Fuel Assistance but thought she was the Center Manager. Amanda (her intern) helped put the results in a narrative form. Now she's working on non-heating assistance as in CL&P bills.
- 5) New Business – John mentioned people have asked about the Visiting Nurses helping people in Heritage Village since so many are so elderly. These people won't call for help themselves. Eileen Bosley of the H.V. Community Relations Committee is not a nurse and is a volunteer. Perhaps a social worker on staff in the Village would help, Sharon suggested, but it is difficult to approach a private person. Irene asked about the Commission on Services for the Elderly which Sharon said is only an advisory board. Part of the problem

is that the elderly are outliving their resources. She suggested calling the State's Protective Services office for these issues. They have to check out the situation within a certain time frame and they follow up.

Another issue in the Village has been harassment. The Village has rules but there's no follow up. John will check out who it was that asked about the VNA.

- 6) Old Business –none
- 7) Public Comment – none
- 8) Adjournment @ 10:31 a.m.

The next meeting will be held April 22 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

F. Sharon Gesek, Chairperson