



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

2011 Funded Agencies Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2011
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Oak Park Public Library
Second Floor Veterans Room
834 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301

I. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Network Updates

AgeOptions encouraged everyone to read the written report. If there are any questions contact the AgeOptions staff person listed in the report.

Agencies were encouraged to share updates. Highlights included the following:

- *Arab American Family Services (AAFS)* is participating in a citizenship program. If an agency has Arab clients who want to become citizens, they can refer them to AAFS. Other ethnicities can also be referred and AAFS will connect them to the appropriate agency.
- *Catholic Charities South Suburban Senior Services (SSSS)* will host the Centers for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) at the Argento Senior Center this year for their Senior Assistance Clinic program. The clinic will begin in November. AgeOptions will follow-up with CDEL to determine where else this program will be implemented. [See attached fliers for more information about services offered and locations for the clinics]
- *CEDA* is getting a lot of questions about property taxes. In Cook County seniors were required to re-file the senior tax exemption this year. Many did not re-file this year so it is causing an increase in service and assistance needs. In addition, with the changes to the LIHEAP program, the application and process is taking a lot longer this year.
- *Ford Heights* recently changed its meal provider to Catholic Charities.

The Area Agency on Aging of Suburban Cook County, since 1974

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- *Greater Chicago Food Depository* is a new provider and will launch an intergenerational meal program on October 19th in Cicero that is focused on providing meals for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- *Hanover Township* is getting ready for their national senior center accreditation (NISC).
- *Kenneth Young Center (KYC)* is part of a partnership along with AgeOptions, Aging Care Connections, Solutions for Care, North Shore Senior Center, PLOWS Council on Aging, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors, Rush University Medical Center and seven other hospitals that submitted an application for funding through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for an expansion of the Bridge program, a hospital care transitions project.
- *Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF)* Kathy Swanson is the new Regional Ombudsman. She has worked as the supervising attorney for the program for many years. LAF has recently gone through a reorganization and Robyn O'Neil has moved to the family law division. LAF will officially consolidate all of its community offices to a central downtown location on December 2. An open house will take place at a later date. In addition LAF has ensured that there are systems in place to continue to do outreach into the community.
- *North Shore Senior Center (NSSC)* recently held a successful benefit to support its Adult Day Center. In addition, the state is current with its payments to NSSC.
- *Salvation Army* is opening a new nutrition site in Blue Island. In addition they have received two grants from AARP and MetroSouth Medical Center to develop a hydroponics garden on the roof of the building for the congregate meal program.
- *Senior Assistance Center* is hosting its 3rd Annual wine tasting on November 1. For more information or to attend, contact Carol Creason.
- *Solutions for Care (SFC)* is very busy with property taxes and is working with the Assessor's office to try and mitigate some of the concerns. In addition, they just held their grand opening of their Aging Resource Center at MacNeal Hospital. This is part of their Bridge transitional care program.
- *Stickney Township Office on Aging (STOA)* is hosting the first Senior Fraud fair and is excited about the event.
- *Urhai* recently identified the need for a Senior Center in their community and is looking for space where seniors that do not need adult day services can gather. Rents are very expensive so Urhai is also looking for funding opportunities and would appreciate any suggestions.
- *West Suburban Senior Services' (WSSS)* Michael Jennings introduced himself as the Interim Director of WSSS.
- *White Crane Wellness Center* recently received a grant to conduct free prostate cancer screenings. If you are interested in partnering with White Crane and hosting an event, contact Elizabeth Cagan.

III. Presentation on Emergency Planning

Kim Blechschmidt introduced the speaker, Connie Polk from Collaborative Healthcare Urgency Group. As a network, we need to plan for emergencies of all types. We need to address disaster planning in the next three years and this presentation sets the stage. There are two prongs:

- 1) Access to services
- 2) Becoming an asset to first responders and our clients

AgeOptions next step is to look at adding a field in NAPIS that will allow agencies to flag high-risk clients so that network agencies and first responders triage need and reach the most vulnerable people first when there are emergency situations.

The presentation can be accessed at:

<http://www.ageoptions.org/newsandviews/documents/Katie-PowerPoint.pdf>

As a network we have had a lot of experience dealing with the recovery of disasters and we can continue to work on this to create consistency and have plans in place. AgeOptions will ask each agency to designate a person that first responders should contact in the case of emergencies or disasters. We will also develop network-wide outreach materials that you can use for your clients.

IV. FY2013 RFP Planning Updates

Next year we are scheduled to release a request for proposals (RFP) for social services, health promotion, Caregiver Resource Centers, Elder Abuse Provider Agencies and Long Term Care Ombudsman services. If AgeOptions initiates the RFP it will be issued around February 24, 2012 and applications will be due April 23. Listening sessions and interviews with key informants will take place to help formulate the RFP. We want to look at how we can leverage funds to bring new funds into the network. Other key informants with whom we will be talking include the RTA, ethnic organizations, CCUs and CPOE agencies, disease-specific groups such as the Alzheimer's Association, the Red Cross and hospitals.

V. NAPIS Updates

Dan Christensen discussed NapisPak data. Chicago and suburban Cook provide most of the data/services within the state. We realize that NapisPak is a complex data system and that more partners/providers have been required to use it. Within our network there are five different input systems that must interface with NapisPak and some agencies also have multiple sites. NapisPak is becoming a universal reporting system throughout the state.

Accurate data is essential. AgeOptions recently tested imports and we know that it is still slow. We are working with Innovative Data systems to speed it up. We also recently expanded the caregiver services codes to include three additional codes.

Dan encouraged providers to use the Audit Report function of NapisPak as a tool to see what data is missing.

The fourth quarter nutrition reconciliation was just completed. Please make sure that your NAPIS data equals your reimbursement requests for the year. This can be corrected in the 4th quarter.

If you are having problems with NapisPak, call AgeOptions. We will contact Innovative Data Systems, if necessary.

We will be working on the end of year report in the next couple of months. For those agencies that enter data directly into NapisPak, please make sure it is there by the end of the month. For those who import the data, we will contact you when you can upload. We are working out a few bugs with Innovative Data Systems.

The fact that NapisPak is difficult to use and complicated was discussed by some of the funded agencies. NapisPak was adopted by the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A). AgeOptions will take these concerns to I4A to discuss if NAPIS is effectively serving the needs of the state. Data is essential for demonstrating the effectiveness of our programs and is used for budgeting at the state and federal levels.

VI. Advocacy

Jon Lavin discussed the fact that we are still waiting to find out what will happen with the federal budget. We have less money, and we have done a good job at mitigating the impact, but there is the possibility of an additional 10-20% cut depending on what the Super Committee recommends. This committee will need to cut \$1.5 trillion from the deficit over the next five years. If the Super Committee does not agree to a proposal to reduce the deficit by at least this amount or if its proposal is voted down, then \$1.2 trillion in automatic, across-the-board cuts will be triggered. AgeOptions is monitoring the situation and will keep providers informed

VII. Adjournment

Care Coordination Units (CCU) and nutrition providers were asked to stay after the Funded Agencies Meeting in order to have their annual coordination meeting.

Funded Agencies Meeting attendees:

AgeOptions: Jonathan Lavin, Chief Executive Officer
Kim Blechschmidt, Director of Planning Program Design and Grants
Anne Posner, Director of Program and Community Support
Shai Hoffman, Grants Manager
Rob Mapes, Manager of Community and Agency Relations
Katie Schmit, Elder Rights and Social Service Specialist
Dan Christensen, Grants Specialist
Elizabeth Lough, Red Tape Cutter Specialist

Aging Care Connections: Debbie Vershelde and Louise Starmann

Arab-American Senior Services: Itadel Shalabi and Susan McDaniels

Catholic Charities Lunch & More: Donna Schultz

Catholic Charities North: Barbara Gaskill
Catholic Charities Northwest: Brandy Kukurba
Catholic Charities South Suburban Senior Services: Angela Taylor
CEDA: Marty Feinstein, Marty Feinstein and Denise Chaffee
CJE Senior Life: Barbara Rabyne
CNN: Ed Kuypers
Des Plaines Community Senior Center: Melissa Kalliantasis
Evanston Commission on Aging: Audrey Thompson
Ford Heights Community Services Organization, Inc.: Betty Walton
Greater Chicago Food Depository: Adam McGriffin and Allison Liefer
Hanover Township: Barbara Kurth-Schuldt
Legal Assistance Foundation: Kathy Swanson, Kathryn Liss and Colleen Connolly
Leyden Family Services: Gail Waters
Metropolitan Asian Family Services: Himali Bharucha
Metropolitan Family Services: Carla Frisch
North Shore Senior Center: Jordon Luhr and Kathy Honeywell
Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council: Carol Reagan
PLOWS Council on Aging: Don Chapman and Becky Lerfelt
Rich Township: Alana Bates
Salvation Army: Joan Kurtz and Josh Polanco
Senior Assistance Center: Carole Creason
Solutions for Care: Deb Sitz and Sarah Saenz
Stickney Township Office on Aging: Joan Wileman
UIC Pharmacy Practice: Mike Korokowski
Urhai Community Service Center: Angel Kindo
West Suburban Senior Services: Mike Jennings
White Crane Wellness Center: Elizabeth Cagan
Xilin: Helen Welch