

Oklahoma Alliance on Aging
Strategy Committee Notes, December 12, 2005

Location: Aging Services Division Conference Room in Shepherd
Mall

Present: James Crowder, Albert N. Janco, Vivian Smith, John
Terneus and Janine McCullough

In the absence of our Chairman, Tully McCoy, the meeting was called to
order at 9:45 a.m. by James Crowder.

It was mentioned that there is a lot of difference in various hospice
programs and organizations. Some are for profit and others are non-profit.
You should check them out very carefully before using one. Of course the
most important thing is the caring attitude of the people that will be caring
for your loved one. On Tuesday, January 3, 2006, I happened to hear a
commercial on the radio where some hospice was telling us, "There is
never a charge to our patients or to their families." I don't think this is the
case in every instance.

Someone told us that the average nursing home occupancy rate in
Oklahoma is now 60%. Someone else asked if this is the case, why are
some families having such a hard time finding a place for their loved ones?
Someone else told us that so many of our older people are now very sick,
and some nursing homes don't want to take the very sick. They think it is
too much trouble. If this is so, it is a sad state of affairs.

Senior Day at the Capitol was again mentioned. Since our last meeting
some sad news has happened. Long time Aging Services Division Legal
Services Developer, Richard Ingham, died on Thursday, December 22, and
his memorial service was held Tuesday, December 27, 2005, at Baggerley
Funeral Home in Edmond. He had been the staff person that had
coordinated Senior Day at the Capitol for many years. He had a large
funeral. Your recorder attended the services. Many of us had worked with
Richard and had known him for a long time. He will be hard to replace.
This makes it more important than ever that the State Council on Aging
and the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging start work on this important event
very soon. Come to our next meeting and give us your ideas on how we
should continue this day.

Congress will be reconvening in Washington, D.C., soon. This being the case we are giving you the current addresses of our two U.S. Senators and our five U.S. Representatives:

U.S. Senator Tom Coburn, 100 N. Broadway, Ste 1820, Oklahoma, City, OK 731 02. Phone 405-231-4941, Fax 405-231-5051.

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe, 1900 N. W. Expressway, Ste 1210, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. Phone 405-608-4381, Fax 405-608-4120.

Congressman John Sullivan, District 1, 2424 East 21st St., #510, Tulsa, OK 74114. Phone 918-749-0014, Fax 918-749-0781.

Congressman Dan Boren, District 2, 431 W. Broadway, Muskogee, OK 74401. Phone 918-687-2533, Fax 918-687-2532.

Congressman Frank Lucas, District 3, 10952 N.W. Expressway, Ste. B, Yukon, OK 73099. Phone 405-373-1958, Fax 405-373-2046.

Congressman Tom Cole, District 4, 2420 Springer Dr., Ste. 120, Norman, OK 73069. Phone 405-329-6500.

Congressman Ernest Istook, Jr., District 5, 120 N. Robinson, Ste. 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Phone 405-234-9900, Fax 405-234-9909.

We understand that Esther Houser will be back with us at our next meeting. Come and enjoy her input.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Monday, January 9, 2006, at the Aging Services Division Conference Room at Shepherd Mall. Please plan to be with us. We need to decide how we can attend the committee meetings that handle the legislation we are interested in. Our organization needs your help. The Oklahoma State legislature convenes in February. That is less than a month away.